



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes

Happy Spring!



It certainly lifts our spirits to see the colors of Spring - the bright green leaves and grass, and the many colors of the spring flowers! With the better weather and falling COVID numbers, I think we all want to believe that we are "over" the perils of COVID-19. But we are not. Not yet. So while we are still Zooming our monthly meetings, we are hoping to get to see each other by the end of summer. Our Area 2 Conference in June is planned to be on Airmeet (similar to Zoom), while the hope is that the October IRTA State Convention will be in-person.

As you may have heard, the Arlington Park Race Track is closing after this season. IRTA Unit 90 has sponsored a "Day at the Races" for a number of years, and will again be sponsoring an outing on Sept. 9. If you are interested, the sign-up sheet is included in this newsletter. Attendance is limited, and it is on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

IMPORTANT! We need new retirees as members! If you know someone who is retiring from teaching this year, or has retired recently and is not an IRTA member, please reach out to them and tell them why you have joined, and how important it is to their pension that they join us. Our pensions will not magically take care of themselves. We must be diligent in watching our money and our legislators. IRTA is the only state organization solely dedicated to this purpose. We get their school contact information when they are retiring, but after that, we need your help!

And if you are interested in becoming more active in IRTA, we welcome you to our monthly (now on Zoom) Board meetings. Just email me, Jane McCauley, at wcm211@comcast.net to get an invitation.

Please stay safe and enjoy the warmer weather,

Jane McCauley



Upcoming Events 2021

2021 Area 2 Conference
Thursday, June 10, 2021



Airmeet

2021 Day at the Races
(Arlington Park Race Course)
Thursday, September 9, 2021



2021 IRTA Biennial State Convention
(Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL)
Monday-Tuesday, October 18-19, 2021



Bob Lyons' TRS Report:



Personally, I find it difficult to believe that with all that has transpired in this last year that the financial markets and our pension fund have done so remarkably well. It is very real proof of the old adage that the rich simply get richer. Fortunately for us, the combined wealth of our pension fund can easily be counted as rich. At the end of March, 2020 TRS had \$48.6 billion, but nine months later at the end of 2020 TRS had \$57.3 billion, which represented a record amount for our fund. It also represented a growth of 17.9% from the lowest point during the year. As the financial markets continued to prosper by the end of this past February, our investments totaled \$58.3 billion, which of course was still another record for our fund. Significantly at the end of last year the forty-year record for TRS was an annually growth rate of 9.3 percent.

I am sure that all of you understand that what TRS pays out every year is greater than what it receives in contributions. Last year, in benefits to those of us retired, survivor benefits, and in disability payments, the total paid was \$7.1 billion. A good year of investment returns allows those benefits to be paid, but also for the fund to continue to grow.

Larry Pfeiffer, who took my place on the TRS Board, will complete his first four-year term this summer. He was the only annuitant that with the backing of the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association was able to gain the minimum 500 signatures of retired teachers to run for another term. With only one authorized candidate, Trustee Pfeiffer, was declared the winner and no election was necessary, which spared TRS the cost of the contest. I think Larry has been an excellent board member and I certainly believe that all of us in the IRTA can be proud of his continued contribution to our pension program.

Where Does Your Pension Come From

Proceeds from Investments	40.30%
Contribution from Active Teachers	15.75%
Required payments from School Districts	2.34%
Contribution from State of Illinois	41.57%

(Composite of sources of revenue from FY 2001 to FY 2020)

Region 3 Director
Retired Annuitant Trustee

Bob Lyons

Doris Haack Scholarship Update:

\$10,905 was contributed! Wow! Thanks!

We'll be awarding three scholarships for HEHS and one for CHS.

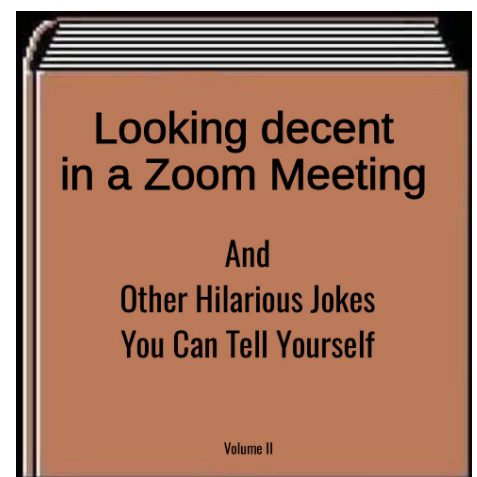
March 3, 2021 Zoom Board Mtg



Zoom Meeting

Audio only

With video



April 7, 2021 Zoom Board Mtg



IRTAPAC

The IRTAPAC Fund continues to grow, but we need your help. Donate to our Political Action Committee and protect the status of retired educators by donating just \$1.00 per month through pension deduction. IRTA will continue to fight for retired educators' benefits as we have for over 60 years. Help Us in Our Fight! Mail the IRTAPAC donation form on this page to IRTA, 828 S. Second St., 4th Floor, Springfield, IL 62704.

Member dues money is never used for PAC purposes.



Please mail to IRTA.

IRTAPAC Donation Form

828 S. Second St., 4th Floor • Springfield, IL 62704 • 1-800-728-4782

e-mail: irta@irtaonline.org • webpage: www.irtaonline.org

☒ **IRTAPAC Donation – I hereby authorize the Teachers' Retirement System to DEDUCT my IRTAPAC donation in monthly installments of \$1.00.**

Signature Required Here _____

Social Security # _____

(Only Last 4 Digits Required)

Name Last	First	MI	DOB

Address	City	State	Zip

Phone ()	E-mail	Retirement Year	

OUR DENTAL PLAN GIVES YOU FREEDOM. NOW THAT'S SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

POLICIES THAT LET YOU CHOOSE YOUR OWN DENTIST.

The dental policies available through your Illinois Retired Teachers Association and AMBA let you see any dentist, any time. Plus, should you choose to stay in-network, you receive discounts on your services and there are no claim forms to complete! So enroll in the dental plan that lets you keep living life your way.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

[ENROLL NOW >](#)

OR CALL 1.844.385.4360 MON-FRI 9AM-5PM CT



"Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers" Program

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is making \$36,500 in grant money available statewide in Illinois. This special grant money will provide additional funds to public school educators (Pre-K through 12) so that their students will have the means to participate in special projects.

Please download, complete, and submit the application online by visiting www.irtaonline.org and looking under the Foundation section. All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2021.

* Chicago Public School employees are not eligible for this grant program.

Janette Wanner'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 **670 members** in Unit 90, but only **594** 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 **234 life members**.

The State IRTA and the Unit 90 memberships are separate.
Membership forms for both can be found on our webpage:
irta-unit90.org. **You should join both!**

Help

We Don't Have a Current Address for these
Unit 90 Life Members - **Do you know them???**

Evelyn M Smith formerly at 1079 E Wilson St
Apt 3213, Batavia, IL

Eleanore K Wallace, formerly at 590 Central Dr
Apt A10, Southern Pines, NC

Unit 90 Members Who Died Recently

David Buchheit	(April 2021)
Elwood Hughes	(March 2021)
Robert Ingraham	(March 2021)
Grant Blaney	(Feb. 2021)
Lois Brothers	(Feb. 2021)
Kathleen M Ferguson	(Jan. 2021)
Robert Cassidy	(Dec. 2020)
Carl F Flaks	(Dec. 2020)
Doris J Haack	(Nov. 2020)
Fern E Rodgers	(Nov. 2020)



Don't forget, despite the fact that we have been unable to meet for in-person luncheons or regional outings, our dues & your membership do the following:

- 1). Partially fund IRTA Foundation donations
- 2) Fund programs for our luncheon meetings
- 3) Pay for the printing and distribution of our Unit 90 newsletters and directories
- 4) Give you special alerts on legislative updates on retired teacher issues in Springfield
- 6) Remember - YOUR Unit 90 IRTA is the arm of the IRTA in Springfield

Interesting Facts...

11% of Unit 90 members are not State IRTA members

27% of State IRTA members in NW Suburban area are not Unit 90 members

17% of Unit 90 members live out-of-state

Carolyn White: Volunteers Needed



Annie's Resale for the World in Palatine is looking for cashiers who can greet customers and answer basic questions. Training will be provided. The shop is open from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 10:00 am - 5:00 pm on Saturdays. Flexible shifts are available.

The **Once and Again Boutique** in the Des Plaines Frisbie Senior Center is looking for volunteers to sort, price and organize donations or serve as a cashier. The shop is open Tues. - Sat. from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Check the web-sites for both of these shops to obtain a volunteer application.

The Church of the Incarnation in Mount Prospect is planning to host a summer PADS site on Thurs. from May through September. They are looking for volunteers to help with set up (6:00 am - 7:00 pm); 1st shift (6:30 - 11:00 pm) meal serving and checking in clients; 2nd shift (11:00 pm - 3:00 pm) admit late arrivals, prepare lunches and monitor the sleeping areas; 3rd shift (3:00 pm - 7:00 am) monitor the site, make coffee, wake up sleeping guests; and clean-up (6:00 pm - 7:00 am). Volunteers must attend mandatory training held at JOURNEYS (1140 E. Northwest Highway, Palatine). Note: Currently PADS sites have been suspended and clients are being housed in local hotels but they are hoping to be able to open sites for the summer.

The **Escorted Travel Service (ETS)** at the Arlington Heights Senior Center is looking for drivers to take seniors to medical appointments. Drivers provide transportation to and from the doctor's office. Schedules are flexible. For Arlington Heights, contact Sharon Swanson at 847-894-9417 or by email at sswanson@vah.com.

Kenneth Young Center (KYC) is looking for Home Delivered Meals Drivers to serve in Elk Grove and/or Schaumburg Townships. Drivers deliver nutritious meals and make wellness checks for home-bound, at-risk older adults. Contact Colette Young at 847-524-8800, Ext. 182 or by email at colettey@kennethyoung.org. **KYC** is also looking for individuals or teams to participate in the 2021 Hustle for Health 5K run/walk. This event is in partnership with the Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System and will be held both virtually and in person at Busse Woods on June 26.

To register your team, go to give.kennethyoung.org/2021





MEET & GREET

IRTA Members-Only Event

Do you miss seeing old friends? Would you like the opportunity to make some new ones?

If so, here is your chance to connect with other IRTA members and former colleagues in a casual virtual setting. No strict time frame, feel free to join and leave at your leisure.

You are Invited to the...

Illinois Retired Teachers Association's first ever "Meet and Greet" virtual event.

Mark your calendars for May 12, 2021, at 3:00 PM (CT).

You can register online by [clicking here](#). You will want to use a desktop/laptop computer and Google Chrome browser to join if possible. You'll be requested to login using your email. Upon sign-up, you will then have to confirm your details. Provide your Name, Professional Title, Organization, City & Country. If things are good, select "Continue," and you're in! As soon as registration and filling out the attendee card is done, you'll enter the Airmeet platform.

If you have any questions regarding the event, contact the IRTA Office at 1.800.728.4782.

[Click here](#) for some helpful tips and a Step-by-Step Guide to help you work through the Airmeet platform.

***Limit of 100 attendees**

***Be sure to test your connection up to one hour ahead of the meeting time.**

2006-19

Photos at:

[http://www.irta-unit90.org/
events/](http://www.irta-unit90.org/events/)

**Apparently, it's
only appropriate to
say "Look at you!
You got so big!"
to children.
Adults tend to get
offended.**

***If you're a State
IRTA member you're
eligible for all these
and many more
benefits:***

1.800.728.4782

**[https://
www.irtaonline.org/
benefits](https://www.irtaonline.org/benefits)**

**Save the Dates:
IRTA Convention
October 18-19, 2021
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL**



*LAST CHANCE : FINAL YEAR at
ARLINGTON INTERNATIONAL RACETRACK*

2200 West Euclid Avenue

Thursday, Sept 9, 2021

Event Time 2:00 - 6:00 pm

Chef's Table 2:15 - 5:15, Bar 2:15 - 5:45, Post Time 2:25 pm

Cost \$95 (Rain or Shine, 48 max, first come, first serve basis)

Cost Includes: Preferred and General parking (open 30 minutes prior to gate opening), Admission to the racetrack (Tickets will be sent electronically with option to forward to your guests as needed), Arlington Racetrack Program, Soft Drinks, Quarterpole Menu, Seat in the Million Room Platform, Access to the rail to enjoy racing

Menu includes: Garlic Parmesan Dip, Kettle Chips, American Potato Salad, Taylor Street Chopped, Grilled Turkey Sandwich, Roast Beef Sandwich, Grilled Vegetable Sandwich, Mixed Summer Fruit, Cookies, Brownies (Cost of Coffee, Beer, Wine and Mixed Drinks is extra)

Dress Code: No shorts, t-shirts, tattered or torn jeans, athletic shoes or abbreviated attire (Please inform your guests)

Do not bring alcoholic or intoxicating beverages, weapons, or any illegal drugs or substances



Call Linda Wagner if you have any Questions???

Cell (847) 207-2045 Email: wagnerls21@yahoo.com

Reservation and Payment

for the Arlington Racetrack Event

Thursday, September 9, 2021

Name:_____ # of Ticket (s) _____

Cell Phone #_____ Email Address_____

Names of other Guests:_____

Total amount: Number of tickets _____x \$95 = \$_____

Remember: We are limited to 48 people (first come, first serve basis)

*Make Checks to: **IRTA- Unit 90** (tickets will be sent electronically)*

Which do you prefer: (Circle one) email or text

Send check(s) to: Linda Wagner

7306 Gleneagle Circle

Village of Lakewood, IL 60014

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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