



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes



Happy May,

I'm sure that warmth is on its way. Luckily, flowers like daffodils and hyacinths don't seem to mind the cold. They are a welcome burst of color.



Some of us are ready to get out with a group and do something. Maybe a luncheon, a historical tour, a boat ride, visit a museum or a sporting event, attend a special presentation, or something else? Just informally, let us know how you feel and if you have any suggestions. Email me your thoughts at wcm211@comcast.net

Unit 90 is meeting in person at the Arlington Heights Senior Center for our monthly Board Meetings - all are welcome. They are on the first Wednesday of the month at 10:00 am (no meetings in July and December). Many people in this state are working hard to preserve our pensions. Go to our local website (irta-unit90.org) and the state website (irtaonline.org) to find out who we are and join us!

Bye for now. Be well,

Jane McCauley



2022 IRTA Area Conference

June 9 - Area 2

The Association is excited to announce our 2022 Area Conferences. All state members will be invited to register and attend their respective area meetings. All presentations will be taped and available on our website. Mark your calendars and join the meeting live!

Additional registration information will be forthcoming.

When I'm an old lady I'm going to leave snacks in little bags on the floor all over the house in case I fall down



How to keep all the cookies to yourself:



Bob Lyons' TRS Report



I will assume you are familiar with the concept that a successful retirement plan is like a "three legged stool." It would feature social security, your personal savings well invested, and a pension plan. Sadly, according to the National Institute on Retirement

Security it is a rare individual today that has all three. Actually, they say that it is less than ten percent of Americans. For many people their monthly Social Security payment is the only thing that they can count on. And for many others it is the largest part of their retirement income. Retire at 65 today and your first check is going to be at the very most \$3,200, or a little over \$38,000 a year. And that is not the average, that is the high end. The average Social Security is closer to \$18,000 a year. The problem for many is that, not only that they do not have a pension, but that they also spend pretty much all that they earn, so that they have little savings.

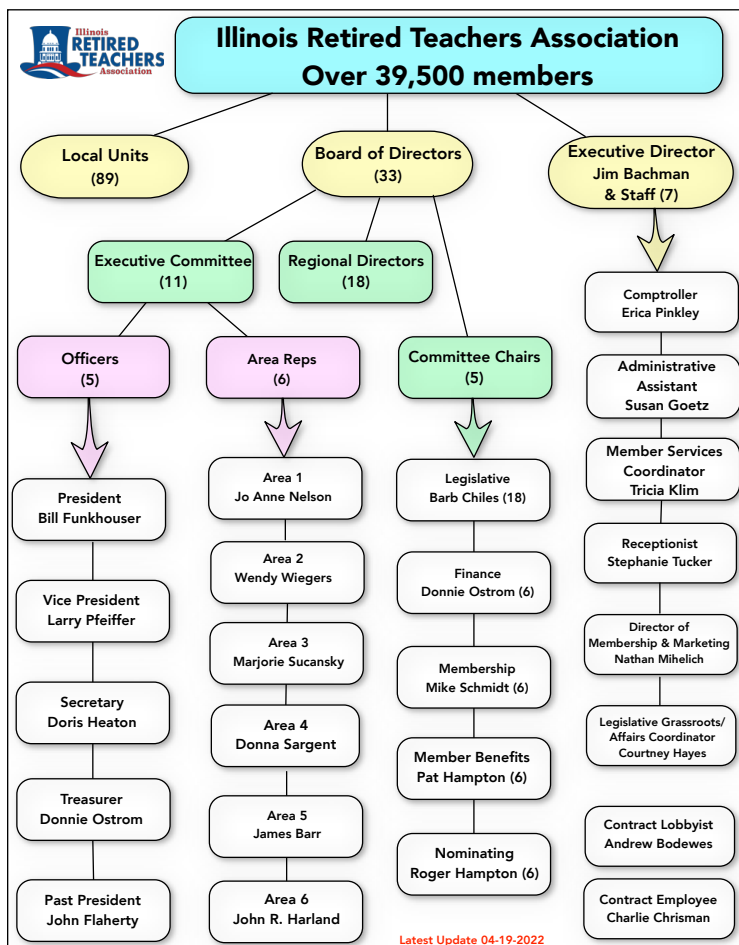
For Americans in the private sector that do have a pension it is far more likely to be a **defined contribution pension**.

Meaning that what you have when you retire is going to entirely depend on what have you saved and invested. When you retire you have a lump sum. Live too long and it is gone. You will live on Social Security for your last years.

The kind of pension that Illinois retired teachers have is a **defined benefit** pension. What your pension will give you, what you will have to live on for the rest of you life, you will know when you retire. Our pension fund was recently worth more \$62 billion, and though it was only 42 percent funded; what is important is that you will receive your pension check every month, every year, and that is guaranteed. It has also grown at a compound rate of 3% per year. While that is less than the current rate of inflation, a growth rate of 3% per year is significantly more than the average annual rate of inflation since 1990 when that benefit first went into effect. We are significantly ahead.

I would estimate the annual current teacher pension in Illinois is about \$60,000, I will assume that almost all of you taught all, or most all of your career here in the northwest suburbs. I started teaching in 1962 at Barrington High School and I was happy to make \$4,900. There was a fellow I taught with that had started teaching in Iowa and he said the year he left he made \$3,700 "and produce". The kids would bring in corn and other vegetables for the staff. Of course to put my starting salary in perspective, gasoline was 25 cents a gallon and our apartment rent was \$95 a month. I retired from Hoffman Estates High School in 1994 taking advantage of the State's early retirement program "Five plus Five". I understand that the current starting salary for District 211 is a little more than \$58,000 and the recently approved new contract calls for the starting salary for 2023 to be \$60,000. When I was on the TRS board, I spoke to retired teachers throughout the northern half of our state. I would often ask what was the top of the pay scale for the area. I can tell you that five years ago there were a number of school districts that would not have had any teachers making the income that teachers in District 211 were starting at. Personally I think that is wrong, but it is a byproduct of our education system which is based on local control and local funding. We benefitted from good pay and well-funded schools to a degree that most of the rest do not enjoy. Of course everything here is based on our pensions being Tier One. The teachers hired after the start of 2011 are Tier Two.

Bob Lyons



March 2, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting



ILLINOIS PENSION PROBLEM PANEL DISCUSSION

Tuesday, May 10 • 7-8:30 p.m.

Schaumburg Township District Library -
Rasmussen Room



Carol Portman of the ***Taxpayers Federation of Illinois*** will moderate a panel discussion with Adam Schuster of Illinois Policy Institute and Ralph Martire of the Center of Tax and Budget Accountability about the Illinois Pension Problem.

There will be a Q&A at the end of the discussion.



For more information and registration, click [here](#).

Masks optional but recommended. People of all abilities are welcome at library events. To request accommodations, call the Library at (847) 923-3347. Find out more about the library's [accessibility services](#).

March 16 "Train the Treasurer" Zoom Meeting



Train the Treasurer – March 16, 2022 – 10:00 AM



By Erica Pinkley, M.B.A.
IRTA Comptroller
epinkley@irtaonline.org



IRTA is the organization that works exclusively for retired teachers It currently represents over 39,500 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.

If you're a State IRTA member, you're eligible for many benefits:

1-800-728-4782

<https://www.irtaonline.org/benefits>

Janette Wanner's Membership Report



Unit 90 (Northwest Suburban) is one of the 89 Units of IRTA in Illinois.

We are in Area 2, Region 3.

Currently we have **628 members** in Unit 90, but only **553** 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 **236 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!

Unit 90 Members Who Recently Died



Marcia Bennett (Feb. 2022)



Gary A. Peterson (Feb. 2022)

Elizabeth Campbell (Feb. 2022)

Charles Francis (Jan. 2022)



Daniel Moore (Jan. 2022)

Daniel Nestor (Jan. 2022)

Mike Wietlispach (Jan. 2021)

Robbie Murphy-Elliott (Dec. 2021)

Alice Davitt (Dec. 2021)

Bob G. Schmidt (Nov. 2021)



Carolyn White: Volunteers Needed



Ascension Alexian Brothers in Elk Grove is looking for volunteers at its two main entrances to transport and/or guide guests to locations in the hospital, manage patient visitor information and print visitor badges, answer phone calls, and address guest questions. They also need volunteers in the emergency room to monitor the security desk, buzz customers in, collect patient information and transport patients throughout the hospital. There are also



many more volunteering opportunities available. All volunteering opportunities have scheduling options available for weekdays, weekends, morning, afternoon, and evening shifts. If interested, or for more information, email Stephen Klaus at stephen.klaus@amitahealth.org.

Volunteer with **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley** to help build and rehab homes for low-income deserving families. Current projects are in Crystal Lake and Carpentersville. Workdays are Wed., Fri., and Sat. from 8:30 - 4:00. If you have a special skill or talent to share, that is needed throughout the year. Also, the two local **Habitat ReStore** locations (in Arlington Heights and Elgin) rely on volunteers for a wide variety of tasks including clerical, receiving donations, processing items to sell and assisting customers. You can sign up for any of these opportunities at <https://volunteerup.com/Login.asp?w=i&o=175>.

Hopeful Beginnings (formally known as St. Mary's Services) is a nonprofit organization located in Palatine. They offer a variety of services for families including adoption services, free counseling services for women dealing with pregnancy related stressors, mood disorders and case management services to ensure women and families are linked to the services require. They are looking for volunteers in the baby closet, general volunteers as well as volunteer case managers. The office is open Mon. - Fri. from 8:30am to 4:30pm. If interested, contact Julie Kitzinger at 847-870-8181 or via email at JKitzinger@HopefulBeginning.org

SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER OUTING

On April 20, sixteen Unit 90 members, family and friends arrived at **Feed My Starving Children** in Schaumburg to fill bags with all the nutrients necessary for a child for one day. When we checked in, we were sent to benches 1, 2 and 3 so we could identify members of the group, meeting new people and renewing old friendships. After a short introduction to the mission of FMSC, two of our group headed off to affix labels to bags. The rest of us watched a video giving the specific instructions for filling the bags. We were the epitome of fashion as we headed to the warehouse with white hairnets completely covering our hair. Since sanitation is a primary concern, the route to the warehouse took us through a very wide hallway lined with sinks so we could thoroughly scrub our hands. Once on the warehouse floor, the group split up among several stations and we tried to figure out which job would be the best fit for each of us. With upbeat music playing, we spent the next hour plus filling, weighing, sealing and stacking our bags to be boxed for shipping. For me, the time went quickly as I learned about the people at my station. In the wrap-up back in the instruction room we were told that our session (we weren't the only group there) had packed 48 boxes, each containing 36 bags. As our group was chatting at the end, we all agreed that it had been a fun and very worthwhile morning. We'll plan on scheduling another date at FMSC and hopefully our group will be a lot larger. Sign up and meet some new friends or bring a family member or friend but join us for our next date.

Carolyn White

Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers

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 IRTA Foundation section. All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2022. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the summer. Grant awards will be presented in the Fall.

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



They say every
piece of chocolate
you eat shortens your
life by two minutes.

I've done the maths.
Seems I died in 1537.

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.

IRTAPac Donation

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 _____



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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