



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

President's Notes



Welcome to the May IRTA Unit 90 Newsletter!

We are sending this newsletter, as always, to keep you informed of any State of Illinois legislative actions, current or potential, that would affect your pension. Our Bob Lyons keep us abreast of issues in this newsletter. We hope that you appreciate that this organization- the Illinois Retired Teachers Association works only for YOU - the retired folks. The active teachers deserve our gratitude and admiration, and thankfully they have organizations like the IFT and IEA to support them. We are fortunate to have the IRTA team in Springfield to support our interests.



In this issue we also include some social events where we can get acquainted and have a good time. Carolyn White has some volunteer events for us to think about. And look for the sign-up sheets for the June 16 Luncheon and our outing to the Boomers Baseball Game on June 25. We'd love to see you at these summer events!



Jane McCauley

Spring brings fresh starts, and what better time to become a substitute teacher!

We're hiring for Butler School District 53, Cicero School District 99, Elmwood School District 401, Lyons School District 103, Mannheim School District 83, Medinah School District 11, Sauk Village School District 168, and West Northfield School District 31. Give substitute teaching a try before the school year ends! What's great is that you'll have time to try different schools and grade levels this year, take the summer off, and be ready to go in the fall. Schedule a call with Tiffany today at <https://calendly.com/tifn695/call> or at (847) 807-3671.

Bob Lyons' TRS Report



You likely are aware that many young people do not figure that Social Security will be there for them when they are ready to retire. The experts say that they are wrong. Congress will reform Social Security, likely by covering a larger percentage, possibly 100%, of the income that people earn. Currently Social Security payments are only taken out of the first \$160,200 that a person makes. Billionaires like Bill Gates, Warren Buffet, or Elon Musk, have made that much sometime early on the First of January. Means testing Social Security will likely be another part of such a reform. Currently \$1,827 is the average monthly social security check, which comes to less than \$22,000 a year. The maximum benefit depends on the age you retire. For example, if you retire

at full retirement age (65 in 2023), your maximum benefit would be \$3,627. However, if you retire at age 70 in 2023, your maximum benefit would be \$4,555. The most that anyone can make from Social Security is \$54,660 and that would require you not only to have had a good income, but to also work longer.

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Bob Lyons' TRS Report (Continued from Page 1)

In 1935 when Federal Social Security was founded the State of Illinois was one of fifteen states that made the decision to have government workers, including teachers, go with their own separate pension systems. I think it's fair to say, that has been to our advantage, though those of you that had a spouse, who was not a teacher or government worker, are penalized by only receiving one third of their Social Security when they pass on. That is certainly unfair, but is unlikely to be reformed.

There are five state pension funds that receive contributions from the State of Illinois. The largest of the five is the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS). The state universities and junior colleges make up the State University Retirement System (SURS). All of the state workers are part of the State Employees Retirement System (SERS), state judges belong to the Judges Retirement System (JRS), and state legislators belong to the General Assembly Retirement system (GARS). None of the five systems are anywhere close to full funding. At the height of the dot.com bubble TRS was just over 60% funded.

At the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2022, the funding for each of the five state funds and the Chicago Teachers' Pension Funds as follows: TRS 43.8%, SURS 45.2%, SERS 44.0%, JRS 44.3%, GARS 22.0% and CTPF 44.1%. As a side note, some of you may recall that in the late 90's the Chicago Teachers' Pension Fund was more than 100% funded. Then young Mayor Daley argued that it should no longer be necessary for the city to continue to make annual payments to the fund. So the state gave them permission to discontinue the funding. The dot.com bubble then burst and the fund rapidly declined. The Chicago Teachers' Pension Board also often makes investment decisions based on political and social criteria rather than strictly economics. Regardless of the under-funding, all of the pension funds have always been able to make their monthly payments to their members.

The state's contribution for FY 2023 was \$10.98 billion and our fund received \$5.89 billion. This year TRS will pay close to \$8 billion in benefits to 128,000 retirees, survivors, and disabled teachers. We have just over 158,000 active teachers that contribute 9% of their annual salary to our fund. The percentage of Tier II active teachers continues to grow each year, but recall that they contribute the same 9% that Tier 1 teachers do, though their pensions will be significantly smaller.

May 9 will be the 8th anniversary of the unanimous Illinois Supreme Court decision that found the state's attempt to diminish our pensions was unconstitutional. That suit was lead by the Illinois Teachers' Retirement Association, though the IEA and IFT joined in the action.

It was our lawyer that made the arguments that would win the case. And today we have an active suit before the courts to protect our health care. You have good reasons to be a part of the IRTA.

Bob Lyons

**Did some
financial planning
and it looks like I can
retire at 62 and live
comfortably for
eleven
minutes.**



**I'm gonna quit my
job and travel the
world until I run
out of money!
I estimate I'll be
home again
around 10 PM
this evening...**

I asked a supermarket market worker where they kept the tinned peaches. He said, "I'll see," and walked away. I asked another and he also said, "I'll see," and walked away.

In the end I gave up and found them myself, in Aisle C.

April 5, 2023 Area 2 Conference (Zoom)

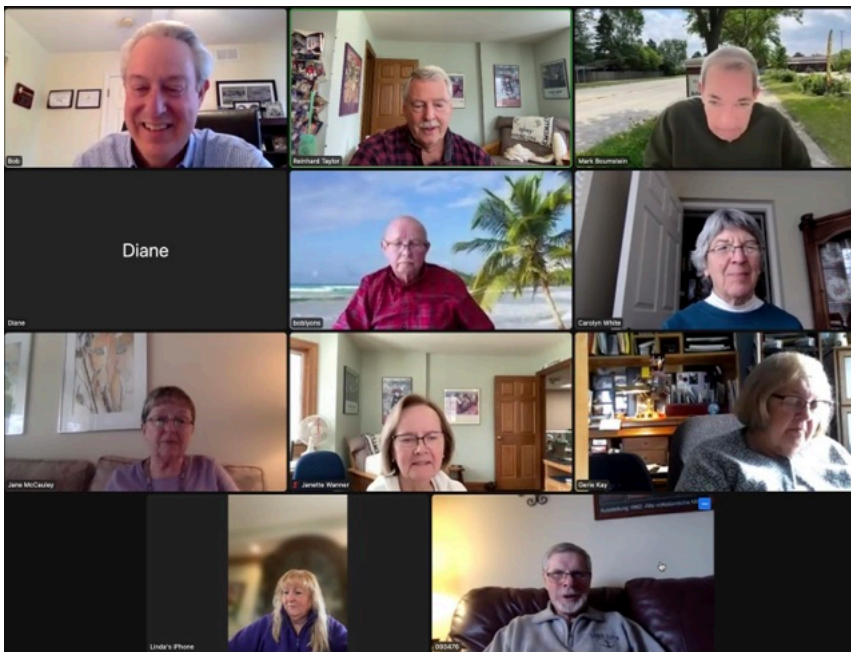


← Our own Bob Kaplan addressed the Area 2 Conference as the IRTA Nominations Committee Chair.



IRTA President

April 5, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)



Linda Wallin - Facebook Coordinator



Did you know that Unit 90 has a Facebook presence? We need **likes** and **followers**.

If you have anything to add, or have comments, please let me know: lwallin@dwna.net.

So, check it out by clicking on the link [Unit-90 IRTA](https://www.facebook.com/unit90irta) and then bookmark it.



Diane Pfister: Foundation News



The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation's goal is to assist past, present and future teachers. This is accomplished by assisting retired educators with living expenses, providing scholarships to aspiring teachers, working to protect the rights of the elderly, and providing grants to educators.

Our unit supports the activities of the state IRTA Foundation by making a memorial donation when one of our members passes. Please email us when you become aware of a death so that we may honor that person's memory.



2023 Excellence in Education Grants for Teachers

The IRTA Foundation continues to work toward the future by offering **\$42,000** in grant money to educators.

Being an educator do you often think of this phrase — Extra Funds Needed — when it comes to planning special projects for your students? You may be finding that revenue sources are not available for such unique activities.

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation is making \$42,000 in grant money available to ALL counties in Illinois. This special grant 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. The funds are not intended to provide regular curricular materials.

Please visit the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org for further instructions. You can download, complete, and submit the application online from the IRTA website. All proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2023. A special committee will select the recipients of the grant money over the summer. Grant awards will be presented in the fall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) Office by phone at 1.800.728.4782 or by e-mail at irta@irtaonline.org.

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, 828 S. Second St., 4th Floor, Springfield, IL 62704

* Chicago Public School employees are not eligible for this grant program.
Revised January 2023

- \$42,000 is NOW available in Grant Money!
- Deadline: June 1, 2023
- Submit your application online Today!



Deadline June 1, 2023

Carolyn White: Volunteers Are Always Needed...



Little City is looking for volunteers to help coach their Special Olympics teams. Bowling season runs during the summer (July - Aug.). Flag football pre-season training is during July and August and the season runs from September through October. Volleyball will start in July. Little City also needs someone who is lifeguard certified to either lifeguard or teach water aquatics classes. Most sports activities begin after 2:30 pm. All take place on the main Little City

Campus at 1760 W. Algonquin Rd. except for the bowling, which is at Arlington Lanes. If interested, contact Elideth Vazquez Martinez at evazquezmartinez@littlecitcity.org

**Volunteers
Needed!**



Connections to Care (formerly Escorted Transportation Services) is looking for drivers to take seniors to medical or dental appointments. The passenger must be able to get in and out of the car independently, although they may use a walker. As a volunteer driver, you choose your schedule and how often you would like to drive. You must have an Illinois driver's license and carry an auto liability insurance card. Once you apply, there will be a background check as well as a check on your driving record. More information and volunteer application forms are available at connectionstocare.org.

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 **566 members** in Unit 90, but only **503** 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 **241 life members**.

The State IRTA and the Unit 90 memberships are separate.

Membership forms for both can be found on our webpage: [Click Here](#).

You should join both!



The Member Portal located in the Member's Only section of the State IRTA website (irtaonline.org) was recently changed. Click on "Members Only" and log in. The State IRTA member's username is now your email, and you need to establish a new password.

Each member can review their own personal information, pay their State dues, see when their membership is up for renewal, donate or review their donation history, register for an event, and update their profile information. The Member's Only section of the website looks similar to how it did in the past, but it has been updated to use with the new IRTA database.



Unit 90 Members Who Recently Died



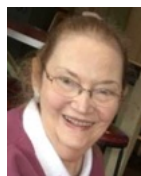
Gardner, John (Jan. 19, 2023)



Farrell, James (Jan. 16, 2023)



Duffy, Mary (Jan. 18, 2023)



Grobe, Edah (Sept. 15, 2022)



June 16, 2023

\$30 each (\$35 for non-member guests)

102 N. Roselle Rd, Palatine, IL 60067 (NW corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads)
(847) 358-2340 Valet Parking Available (\$3 suggested gratuity). Cash Bar Available

Dress Code: Shirts with collars, no jeans or cargo pants

(cash bar)

Program	1:00
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A representative
will highlight
some of the special
benefits available
to IRTA members.

Menu -- Choice of one:

Mixed greens, roasted chicken, bacon, avocado, tomatoes, bleu cheese, egg, all tossed with balsamic vinaigrette dressing

--or--

Faroe Island salmon, glazed with honey mustard
served with chef's choice of starched seasonal vegetable

--or--

6 oz. pan-roasted chicken, sautéed in a sauce of lemon, capers and garlic, served with mashed potatoes and asparagus

Each entrée served with: Chilled vichyssoise soup, fresh bread and butter, and coffee or tea

Individual chocolate cake, with ganache center and dusted with confectioner's sugar; accompanied by vanilla ice cream

Reservation deadline for members & their guests: Must be received by June 6, 2023

RSVP to: Linda Wagner, 7306 Gleneagle Cir, Village of Lakewood, IL 60014-6715

Questions? Please call Linda Wagner at 847-207-2045

Dietary concerns **must** be noted on here. They cannot be addressed on the day of the event.

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (\$30 each) (Non-Members \$35)

Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90





IRTA-Unit 90 is offering a get-together at Wintrust Field

1999 S Springinsguth Rd in Schaumburg, IL

Sunday June 25, 2023

at 1:00 pm

(Arrive between 12:30 and 12:45 for tickets)

\$30

(includes \$20 food and drink)



Please let us know if you need handicap or wheelchair seating. Elevator available.
In case of rainout, tickets will be refunded.

RSVP to: Linda Wagner, 7306 Gleneagle Cir, Village of Lakewood, IL 60014-6715

Questions? Please call Linda Wagner at 847-207-2045

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Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____. Check enclosed for \$ _____ **(\$30 each)**

Make checks payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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