



Northwest Suburban Unit 90 Minutes

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 10:00 am - Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Jane McCauley, Bob Lyons, Reinhard Taylor, Bob Ferguson, Kathy Lange, Liz White, Mark Baumstein, Linda Wagner, Carolyn White, Doris Haack, Janice Calvey, Karl Heinz Gabbey, Marna Baumstein, Bernie Kameneer, Janette Wanner

1. **Minutes** (Linda Wallin) From May 6, 2020 were approved
2. **Treasurer's Report** (Sandy Ratter) None given
3. **President's Report** (Jane McCauley)
4. **Unit 90 Schedule for 2020**

Summer Luncheon is postponed until further notice

New member breakfast, September 2 - on hold

Legislative breakfast, October 9 - on hold

December luncheon December 4 - on hold

5. Committee Reports

Membership: (Janette Wanner) Currently 712 members, 218 are life members, 632 are members of both State IRTA and local Unit 90

Member Benefits: (Janice Calvey) Will send out a new flyer to Jane McCauley for possible distribution

Information Services: (Reinhard Taylor) Web site is updated

The State IRTA has concluded the "Struggling Units" ad hoc committee with suggestions for Units that are struggling (see attached)

One Unit, Bond County RTA has since then disbanded

Volunteer Services: (Carolyn White) No report

Foundation: (Doris Haack) Three members have died: (Bob Given, Muriel Taylor, Steve Cross) A donation in their memory will be made to the IRTA Foundation

Newsletter: (Jane McCauley) Deadline for our August Newsletter (there is no meeting in July) is July 30, 2020

Legislative: (Karl-Heinz Gabbey) The General Assembly limited its special session in May to the state budget which is the most important item for us retirees plus economic recovery, infrastructure,

coronavirus, and state constitutional amendments. In a related legislative matter, IRTA also sent "endorsement questionnaires" to candidates both incumbents and new to determine whom to endorse in the November elections. Candidates had a deadline of June 1 for their replies to IRTA. IRTA(PAC) also sent questionnaires to congressional candidates to determine their stands on the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). The answers on this questionnaire are at this point for "information purposes" which will be published in IRTA's quarterly newsletter. The IRTA Legislative Committee discussed the unfairness of the WEP/GPO last year during its fall meeting and although a long shot, is pushing for the restoration of full Social Security benefits for IRTA members who earned them through jobs other than teaching.

The most significant part of the "special legislative session" of Illinois' General Assembly for TRS annuitants held in May was the passage of the state budget which included the funding of \$4.81 billion for TRS and \$1.3 billion for TRIP/TRAIL. The legislation was passed as Senate Bill 264 for the Fiscal Year 2021. Bob Lyons, I'm sure, presented all the details at this morning's Unit 90 meeting. Bob also sent us the information regarding the TRS and TRIP/TRAIL funding by the General Assembly in his e-mail of May 26. It was a party line vote by Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate: The Democrats all voted for SB 264 and all the Republicans opposed it.

As much praise as Bob had for the state representatives and senators who sponsored and passed SB 264, he also had some criticism of the legislation as a whole on Fred Klonsky's blog which can be accessed at <https://preaprez.wordpress.com/2020/05/29/bob-lyons-trs-as-we-near-the-end-of-fiscal-rear-2020/>

Here's a part of Bob's commentary on Fred Klonsky's blog:

Our pension system received a total state pension contribution of \$4.81 billion for this current fiscal year, which is certainly a lot of money. Even more significant is that it is not a number that was arrived at by using what is called standard actuarial accounting. The contribution that we receive is based on state law, Illinois state law. Illinois state law dictates that pension contributions are to be calculated on a fifty-year timetable that began in 1995, not the thirty-year time table that almost every other pension system uses. State law also established a 90 percent funding target instead of the standard 100 percent goal that practically all other pension systems dictate. And lastly, Illinois requires the debt payments on state pension bonds to be deducted from future state contributions. That means, the billions borrowed by Governors Blagojevich and Quinn are repaid by money that should have been received by the TRS pension fund. As a result, the contribution of \$5.14 billion which is what the Illinois Teachers' Retirement System will receive for FY 2021 is not the amount that an actuarial standard study would call for, nor does it equal what the pension system is expected to spend in the year ahead. It does not in any way reduce the existing unfunded pension liability that is currently \$78.2 billion. It will of course add to it.

TRS: (Bob Lyons) Bob spoke on TRS investments (see attached)

6. Miscellaneous

No decision has been made as to when to open the Senior Center.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Meeting Schedule for 2020:

2/5, 3/4 (Newsletter), 4/1, 5/6 (Newsletter), 6/3, 8/4 (Newsletter), 9/2, 10/7 and 11/4 (Newsletter).

No meetings in July and December