



# ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**May 7, 2008**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

JUNE 10 (T) – Summer Luncheon  
SEPTEMBER 3 (W) – New retirees Breakfast  
SEPTEMBER 18 (TH) – Day at the Races  
OCTOBER 2 (TH) – Legislative Luncheon  
DECEMBER 3 (W) – Holiday Luncheon

### **SUMMER LUNCHEON**

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 10, 2008, at the Inverness Golf Club (corner of Palatine and Roselle Roads). The program will include a timely and informative update on pertinent legislative issues. See the attached flyer for specific details. NOTE: Valet parking is available.

### **DAY AT THE RACES: SEVENTH ANNUAL**

Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the Seventh Annual Day at the Races on Thursday, September 18, 2008, at the Arlington Park Racecourse. The cost of \$50.00 per person includes: complimentary general parking, admission to the racecourse, the Daily Racing Guide, a lavish two-hour buffet in the International Room, a four-hour beverage package, gratuity, and a \$4.00 donation to Unit 90 REPAC Fund (Tax-exempt savings is \$3.80). For reservations, send your check (payable to: Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc.) to Rich Chierico at 1453 East Norman Drive, Palatine, IL 60074 by Friday, September 12, 2008. For further information, contact Rich at 847-358-7816. Note: Preferred self-parking is closer to the entrance for a cost of \$5.00; valet parking at the clubhouse entrance is available at a cost of \$10.00 per car.

### **UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS**

The meetings of the Unit 90 Executive Board are open to ALL interested members. Please join us on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month (except July and December) at the Arlington Heights Senior Center at 10:00 a.m.

## **VoterVOICE**

Grant Hammer, IRTA Legislation Liaison, wrote: VoterVOICE is an online advocacy tool located within the members-only Legislative section of the IRTA's Web page. The program allows our members to contact state and federal legislators, as well as local news media using letters and faxes. The value of the program lies in its ability to consolidate the many voices of our membership into a single powerful voice. At a moment's notice, IRTA staff can request our members to take action on any given issue by means of sending out a call to action email. This email will then ask members to participate in an online grassroots advocacy campaign and provide the instructions on how to do so. Registration is simple and takes minutes. Members merely need to provide some basic information, so that VoterVOICE automatically connects them to the legislators of their district. VoterVOICE instructions may be found on the IRTA's website at [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) after you log in to your account or you can go to Unit 90's website at [www.irta-unit90.org](http://www.irta-unit90.org) and click on State IRTA Electronic Registration Drive. I urge you to register for VoterVOICE so that you may take advantage of this convenient way to contact your legislators on important issues.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Are you finding that you have a few or more unscheduled hours? There are about 70 charities and nonprofit organizations looking for volunteers. Some volunteer opportunities are a one-time-only need while others involve a more regular commitment. Types of jobs are varied. You could continue in a teaching activity or do something completely different. Catholic Charities in Arlington Heights is looking for volunteers. Visit our website at [www.irta-unit90.org](http://www.irta-unit90.org) for more information or call 847-253-5500. The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) coordinates pairing volunteers with agencies. The RSVP website, [www.volunteerinfo.net](http://www.volunteerinfo.net), has more information or call 847-228-1006 to speak to a RSVP staff member.

## **AREA II CONFERENCE REPORT**

**By Marybelle Macro**

Area II Conference was held on Monday, April 28, 2008 at D'Andrea Banquets and Conference Center in Crystal Lake, IL. Unit 90 was well represented. State Representative Lou Lang spoke and he encouraged IRTA members to oppose the convening of a Constitutional Convention, which has to be on the November ballot by law every twenty years. The State IRTA and the TRS Board of Trustees also encourage their members to vote NO for this convention on the November ballot. Various group presentations were given by committees representing Informational Services, the Endorsement Process, and Membership Retirement Benefits. Bob Lyons also gave his TRS report, included in this newsletter.

## TRS Report – April. 2008

By Bob Lyons, elected annuitant, Illinois Teachers' Retirement System Board

Though our first goal is to protect the money in your pension fund that doesn't mean to bury those dollars in a vault in Springfield, for that would result in their loss in value because of inflation, or even worse, the Governor might find them. So we seek to grow the fund through investments to gain the greatest possible return with as small a risk as we can manage. Investing is not easy; it is difficult. When the economy and the markets are expanding, it may look easy, but when everything turns and heads downward, there is no question that investing is difficult. And it involves risk. There is no such thing as a risk-free investment, though there are those who are happy to offer you just that opportunity. In mid-March shares in Carlyle Capital, a fund which we did not own, based on supposedly triple A-investment grade asset based bonds tumbled overnight from \$12 a share to 18 cents when it became clear that the safe investment was really based on subprime mortgages. As soon as the money leaves your hands the risk begins.

Here are the preliminary numbers for our investment results: at the end of March: the fund value was \$38,718,215,000 and for one year we had grown by 1.48 %, for the last three years the annualized number was 9.79%, and for five years it was 13.2%. The ten-year figure shows the effect of adding the period from 2000 through 2002 when the market was down and the annualized growth fell to 7.50%. You may recall that at the end of June 2007, the fund had grown by 19.6%, but for the first three quarters of this fiscal year it has declined 4.53% and from January to the end of March it fell 6.15%, though for the same period the S&P 500 was down by a full 10%. Then the market turned, and for April, not counting the investments that are difficult to value on a specific day such as real estate, we grew by over 3%, or more that \$1.1 billion dollars in one month

In anticipation that the U.S. economy and markets were due for a decline we started last year to move funds into what would be safer and more profitable markets. This included moving from domestic equities into international markets that were not correlated to ours and also into real return and absolute return funds that are more protected from inflation and down markets. I am happy to report that these changes have already been helpful and have lessened the losses we would have experienced if the shift had not taken place.

**Unit 90 WEBSITE: [www.irta-unit90.org](http://www.irta-unit90.org)**

If you have not done so yet, please check out the Unit 90 website, which includes current information on the following topics: Executive Board members and meeting minutes, IRTA communications, 2008 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, and Unit 90 events with photos!

Thanks to the Webmaster, Reinhard Taylor.

**COMMUNICATION: E-MAIL UPDATES/NEWSLETTERS**

If you are not currently receiving e-mail updates and want to receive them, please send your name and e-mail address to Bill McCauley at [wcmirta@comcast.net](mailto:wcmirta@comcast.net) with the subject IRTA UPDATES.

In an effort to reduce duplicating and postage costs, we are asking you to sign up to receive your newsletter on our website instead of by regular mail for those who have e-mail and would like them delivered in this manner. Again please e-mail Bill McCauley with the subject IRTA NEWSLETTER.

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2008**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Leonard Kortekaas ( [lmkortekaas@yahoo.com](mailto:lmkortekaas@yahoo.com) )

Vice President: Marybelle Macro

Secretary: Frank Compton

Treasurer: Robert Ferguson

**CHAIRS:**

Membership: Roberta Reinhardt

Communications: William McCauley

Webmaster: Reinhard Taylor

Legislative: Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro

Foundation: Doris Haack

Program Coordinators: Liz White, Jeanne Arcus, Rich Chierico, Marybelle Macro

Information Services: Richard Chierico

Member Benefits: Mary Lou Tansey

Health I&P: Mary Hurd

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Ambassador: Roger Steingraber

# Illinois Retired Teachers Association

## Unit 90

### 2008 SUMMER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

#### Inverness Golf Club

102 N. Roselle Road; Palatine, Illinois 60067

Corner of Palatine and Roselle Roads (847) 358-2340

**Valet Parking available at the front door; leave your keys in the unlocked car: \$3.00**

Social Hour                    11:00  
Luncheon                        12:00  
Program                         1:00

Menu Choice of one:

**Cobb Salad:** turkey, tomato, bacon,  
egg, green onion, avocado,  
bleu cheese dressing choice;

**Tilapia Provencal** with Rice Pilaf and  
Green Bean Bundle;

**Chicken Waldorf Salad** w/chicken  
breast, greens, walnuts,  
celery, poppy seed dressing

Each entrée served with:

Cream of Asparagus Soup, hot  
rolls, coffee or tea.

Dessert: **Chocolate Explosion**

Legislative Update:

**Bob Lyons:**

(TRS Board Member )

"State of the STATE"

***Reservation Deadline Wednesday, June 3, 2008***

RSVP to Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane; Palatine, IL 60067-7357;

Questions? Please call Liz White at (847) 397-1678

[Click here to go to printable form](#)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cobb Salad \_\_\_ Tilapia \_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_  
Waldorf Salad

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Cobb Salad \_\_\_ Tilapia \_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_  
Waldorf Salad

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$24.00 each) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

