



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **March 4, 2009**

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 14 (T) or APRIL 23 (TH) – Tour with Dr. Cutler

JUNE 17 (W) – Summer Luncheon

SEPTEMBER 17 (TH) – Day at the Races

Fall (Date to be determined) – Golf Outing

DECEMBER 3 (TH) – Holiday Luncheon

ANOTHER YEAR: GREETINGS

As president, I wish to welcome you to another exciting year with Unit 90 and to encourage you to become involved with our various programs and activities. Due to the popularity of the spring tour last year, we decided to host the same tour with Dr. Cutler on two different dates in April. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

Also we would like to have our first annual golf outing sometime in the fall. See the article in the newsletter. Please join us in our activities.

IRTA 2009 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

The Legislative Committee of IRTA at its January 21, 2009 meeting discussed the following goals (State and Federal) for 2009:

1. Support FY2010 appropriation that requires the state to honor its pension funding as found in law.
2. Oppose changes resulting in decreased benefits to TRIP members.
3. Support legislation that provides an ad hoc increase for those members retired prior to January 1, 1980 provided funding becomes available.
4. Monitor proposed governance changes to TRS fund and board.
5. Monitor consumer fraud and fair credit practice legislation.
6. Review and/or revise endorsement process of candidates.
7. Advocate repeal or amendment of Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Unit 90 WEBSITE: www.irta-unit90.org

If you have not done so yet, please check out the NEW Unit 90 website, which includes current information on the following topics: Executive Board members and meeting minutes, the latest IRTA Call to Action, GPO/WEP Issues, 2009 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, legislative updates, and Unit 90 events with photos! Our thanks go to the Webmaster, Reinhard Taylor.

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.

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 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The American Red Cross has contacted Unit 90 to help disseminate information regarding their volunteer program. In the Greater Chicago area alone there are about 3,000 active volunteers but the need for new people is ongoing. Volunteers are needed in instructing courses, providing office support, assisting with disaster response, etc. We often hear of the Red Cross response to major disasters, but the Red Cross is also one of the first groups on the scene at local disasters such as house fires, floods, heat waves and winter storms. They run large-scale community education programs including Kid Firestopper, Whale Tales (water safety) and CPR training days. The Red Cross provides training for all volunteer positions and specifically mentioned the need for instructors in their community education programs. No matter how much time you have to donate, the Red Cross would be happy to match you up with your interests and their needs. For more information visit the Red Cross website at www.chicagoredcross.org or contact LaToya Sewell-Hall, Volunteer Recruiter at 312-729-6111 or sewellhall@usa.redcross.org.

LIFE LINE SCREENING

The mission of Life Line Screening is to make people aware of an undetected health problem and encourage them to seek follow up care with their physician. Screenings include tests for stroke, carotid artery disease, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease, atrial fibrillation, lipid profiles, glucose test for diabetes and more. For information call 1-800-690-6438 or visit their web site at www.lifelinescreening.com.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING IN A GOLF OUTING?

Unit 90 is considering hosting a golf outing sometime in early fall of 2009. Possible locations are:

1. Kemper Lakes in Hawthorne Woods (private club): approximate cost \$120.00 for driving range, 18 holes, cart, lunch, dinner, gratuity and tax.
2. Lake Barrington Shores in Lake Barrington (private club): \$71.00 + food including cart, driving range and 18 holes of golf; extra cost for food (depending on food choices) which could include box lunches and/or a buffet dinner for an additional \$10~\$30.00.
3. Mt. Prospect Golf Club (public course): will reserve tee times only—no shotgun--\$77.00 includes cart, range, cart and 18 holes of golf with a barbecue dinner after golf.

If you are interesting in playing, please email or call: Liz White (847)397-1678, ebenish@sbcglobal.net by **April 15, 2009** with your location preferences.

If sufficient responses allow, we will proceed to make arrangements for an outing.

Guests would be included if space permits; guests are welcome for meals at a separate cost. We will also welcome volunteers to assist with the day's events.

TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board

Two years ago following an investment study the TRS Board made the decision to reduce our exposures to equities, especially U.S. stocks. Instead we invested in new assets that do well in a down market, such as commodities, and made other investments that typically perform well during periods of inflation.

When the prevailing sentiment in the market turned last year, we did see favorable returns from our managers that had positions in energy and other commodities, but that still did not save us from a loss in the fund of 5% for Fiscal Year 08. It was our first negative return in six years and only the fourth in the last 30 years. Unfortunately far worse was ahead for us and for the worldwide economy.

The collapse of the housing market, the subprime loan mess, and then the financial institutions meltdown has resulted in what is now called the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Not only U.S. stocks went down, but international equities as well. Bonds of most all types were not a refuge and even commodities were pulled down by a worldwide decline in demand. TRS lost 11 percent of its portfolio during October 2008 alone, one of the most volatile periods in the history of the financial market. And the market has continued to decline, and with the exception of some Treasury notes and gold, diversity in investments has been of little value. From July 1, starting with \$38.4 billion the value of our fund fell to \$29.1 billion, a decline of 24%, by December 31, 2008.

While that is the reality of our fund, it is equally certain that all of our pensions will continue to be paid. We have seen the fund reduced by billions, but billions remain, and the obligation of the State of Illinois to see that we receive our pensions remains and is guaranteed by both the State and Federal Constitutions. In time the markets will turn and we are taking steps now to prepare for the recovery, but it is going to take time.

IRTA Unit 90

Income/Expense Statement for
2008

Balance Sheet for 2008

Income		Checking Account	
Membership Dues	\$11,339.00	Balance 1/1/2008	\$6,243.54
Spring/Fall Tour	\$552.02	Income	\$12,240.72
Day At The Races	\$57.00	Expenses	\$4,951.09
Holiday Luncheon	\$292.70	Balance 12/31/2008	\$13,533.17
Total Income	\$12,240.72	CD'S	\$5,674.55
Expenses		Advocacy Funds	
Printing & Mailing	\$2,928.85	Balance 1/1/2008	\$60.00
IRTA Foundation	\$200.00	Donations	\$140.00
Membership	\$717.78	Paid Out	\$0.00
Summer Luncheon	\$119.12	Balance 12/31/2008	\$200.00
Area 2 Conference	\$156.00	REPAC Funds	
Legislative		Balance 1/1/2008	\$582.00
Breakfast	\$331.49	Donations	\$366.00
Bank Charge	\$163.25	Paid Out	\$0.00
Web Hosting	\$334.60	Balance 12/31/2008	\$948.00
Total Expenses	\$4,951.09	Total All Accounts	<u>\$20,355.72</u>

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2009

OFFICERS:

President: Leonard Kortekaas : www.lmkortekaas@yahoo.com

Vice President: Liz White

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: Rich Chierico, Carolyn White, Denise Florczak

Information Services: Richard Chierico

Member Benefits: Mary Lou Tansey

Health I&P: Mary Hurd

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Ambassador: Roger Steingraber

IRTA UNIT 90 SPRING TOUR 2009

This spring's Tour is **HISTORIC CHICAGO: HIGHLIGHTS AND LANDMARKS**, given by noted Chicago historian and author, Dr. Irving Cutler, host of last year's tours.

A narrated tour of some of Chicago's most interesting historic sties will allow one to step back in time. The tour will help one not only to appreciate what has been preserved but also gain a better understanding of Chicago's colorful history. Among the numerous areas to be covered will be Prairie Avenue, the Chicago Stockyards, the Pullman District, the Hyde Park World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) area, historic cemeteries, architectural landmarks, places connected with the Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Riot, prominent politicians and gangland warfare. The Tour includes a number of stops including walking in the historic Graceland Cemetery. Lunch will be at Manny's Deli.

Unit 90 heard your requests from previous tours, so we are offering this Tour on *two separate* dates, so you may select the one which meets your schedule. Select either the Tour on Tuesday, April 14 or Thursday, April 23. The Tours will be identical. For questions, call Liz White (847) 397-1678.

Bus Loading: 8:15am to 8:30am; Bus Departure at 8:30am.
Bus Return: Approximately at 4:30pm.
Cost: \$50.00 per person (includes lunch at Manny's Deli)

Departure from: Forest View Education Center
(see map on back)
North Parking Lot A
2121 S. Goebert Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Space is limited to the first 55 people who send in both the completed form below and a check, made out to: Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90. Please send both to:

Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60067-7357

Reservation Deadline is March 30th for either tour.

Return this reservation form to: Liz White; 5805 Prairie Lane, Palatine, Il. 60067-7357

Name (Print)_____ Phone Number_____

Email address_____ Date Preferred_____

Guest Name (Print)_____ Phone Number_____

Date Preferred_____

Please reserve _____spaces at \$50.00 each. Amount of enclosed check \$_____



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

March 2009

Dear Fellow Retiree:

Isn't retirement great? When asked about how I like retirement, my response is always the same. "Retirement just keeps getting better and better."

But, as we all know, various economic factors and political events as well as the Illinois State Legislature can seriously affect our pension annuities and our health insurance benefits.

Therefore, your SUPPORT of the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association (IRTA) is definitely needed at this time.

Why should you JOIN IRTA?

1. Since 1955 the IRTA, our RETIRED educators' organization, has worked diligently to protect, preserve, and improve YOUR pension and health insurance benefits.
2. IRTA is the only non-profit organization in Illinois dedicated solely to serving the needs and interests of RETIRED EDUCATORS.
3. Without the organized efforts of the state IRTA and the local units, the politicians in Springfield would pay little or no attention to the concerns of RETIRED educators.

Please JOIN the IRTA and Northwest Suburban – Unit 90 now. YOUR MEMBERSHIP COUNTS.

A membership form for the Northwest Suburban – Unit 90 (local) is included. Please complete the form and return it to the appropriate location.

Remember, your interests as a RETIRED educator are IRTA interests.

Yours truly,

Leonard Kortekaas, President
Northwest Suburban IRTA – Unit 90



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

March 2009

Dear Unit 90 IRTA member:

Thank you for your support of IRTA. However, it is NOW time to renew your membership.

Why should you RENEW your IRTA membership?

1. Since 1955 the IRTA, our RETIRED educators' organization, has worked diligently to protect, preserve and improve YOUR pension and health insurance benefits.
2. IRTA is the only non-profit organization in Illinois dedicated solely to serving the needs and interests of RETIRED EDUCATORS.
3. Without the organized efforts of the state (IRTA) and the local units, the politicians in Springfield would pay little or no attention to the concerns of RETIRED educators.

Please RENEW your IRTA membership now. Your CONTINUED support is definitely needed at this time in order to keep the IRTA organization strong.

A membership form for the Northwest Suburban – Unit 90 (local) is included. Please complete the form and return it to the appropriate location.

Remember, your interests as a RETIRED educator are IRTA interests.

Yours truly,

Leonard Kortekaas, President
Northwest Suburban IRTA – Unit 90



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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Membership Application

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Name of Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Retirement Year: _____ Retired from School District: _____

Would you like to have our have our Membership Directory e-mailed to you? yes -- no

Please notify us, if you have a change of address etc.

Please enclose a check made payable to:

Unit 90 Dues (January - December)

Northwest Suburban IRTA

One Year \$10

Mail check and membership form to:

Two Years \$20

Roberta Reinhardt

Three Years \$30

964 Burgess Circle

Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-1205

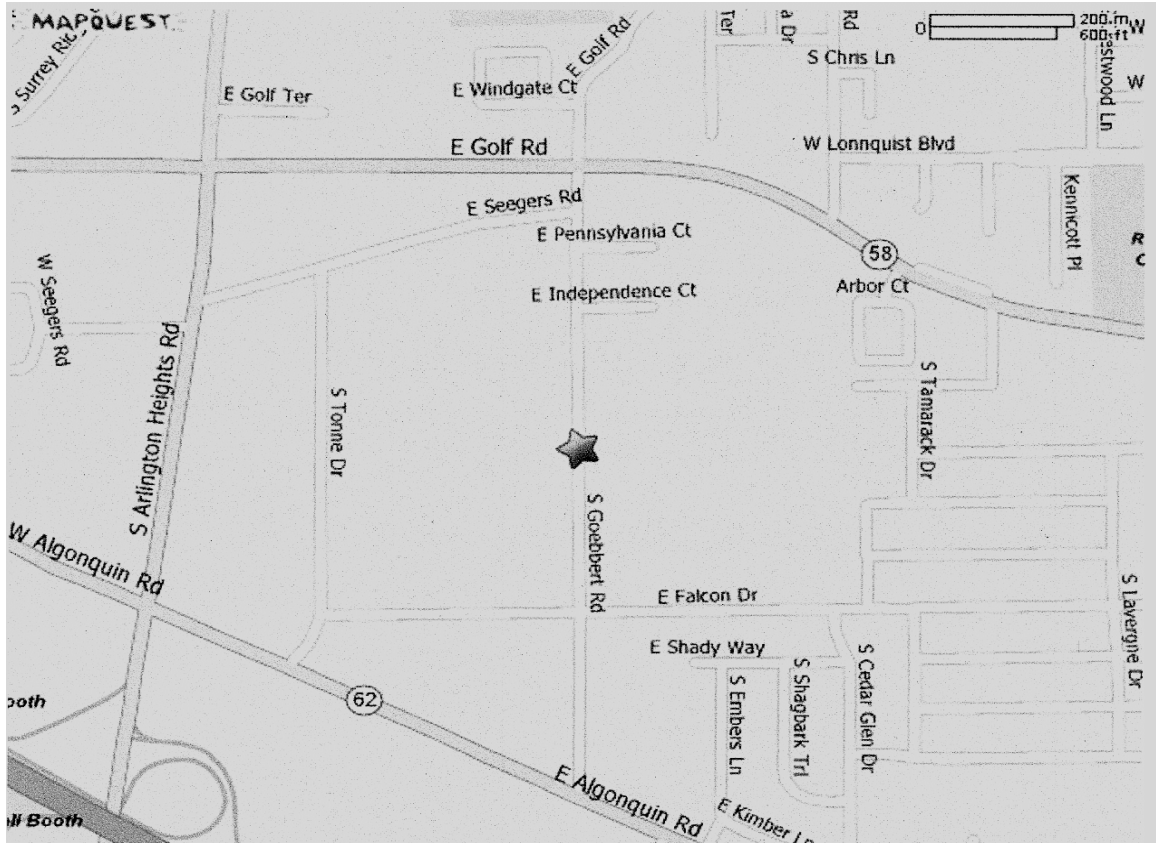
Four Years \$31

If you have any questions, e-mail:

burgesscir@earthlink.net

Don't forget to join the State IRTA

<http://www.irtaonline.org/>



Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90
21 Tall Grass Court
Streamwood, IL 60107-1277

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED