



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 6, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 17 (W) – Summer Luncheon
SEPTEMBER 9 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast
SEPTEMBER 17 (TH) – Day at the Races
Fall (Date to be determined) – Golf Outing
DECEMBER 3 (TH) – Holiday Luncheon

SUMMER LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 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: Eighth ANNUAL

Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the Eighth Annual Day at the Races on Thursday, September 17, 2009, at the Arlington Park Racecourse. The cost of \$42.22 per person includes: complimentary general parking, admission to the racecourse, the Daily Racing Guide, a lavish two-hour buffet in the International Room and a four-hour cash bar. For reservations, send your check payable to: Arlington Heights Senior Center, Inc. to Rich Chierico at 1453 East Norman Drive, Palatine, IL 60074 by Thursday, September 10, 2009. 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.

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, arterial 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.

FIRST ANNUAL UNIT 90 GOLF OUTING

Unit 90 is considering hosting a golf outing late this summer or early in the fall. This will take the usual format for golf outings:

1. Play will be 18 holes and includes the cart;
2. There will be meals included in the price (participation includes all meals – refunds are not given for missed meals);
3. Play will be held in a Scramble format, unless otherwise indicated;
4. Amenities such as range balls, golf shop gifts, and use of locker rooms are included as indicated;
5. Weather conditions are beyond our control. Assume there will be play unless there is lightning. Most courses require a wait of at least 30 minutes following a lightning delay;
6. PGA rules will apply;
7. Volunteers are needed and wanted in order to make the outing a success. Please volunteer even if you don't play golf as there are loads of things that need to be done;
8. Guests are welcome for all meals and are welcome to join in the play if space allows.

Unit 90 has contacted the following courses with the idea holding the outing at one of them.

Please indicate which course you would like to play and send your response to Liz White (5805 Prairie Lane; Palatine, IL 60067-7357) by May 30, 2009. See your newsletter for further details.

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Kemper Lakes (Killdeer): Approximate cost \$120

_____ Lake Barrington Shores (Barrington): Approximate cost \$81-\$101

_____ Mt. Prospect (Mt. Prospect): Approximate cost \$77

_____ I would like to volunteer to help with the outing.

[Click for the Golf Outing Form](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Check out the volunteer website (www.volunteerinfo.net) to find an organization that would be happy to use some of your time. There are many one-time events that need volunteer assistance as well as on-going opportunities. You can work through the web-site or phone 847-228-1006 to find a match for your interests and available time. Lutheran Home, Addolorata Villa, and Friendship Village are all looking for volunteers to assist in activities planned for the residents. They can also use volunteers as friendly visitors and with transporting residents. For any volunteer activity, check with the organization to see if they are a member of RSVP and ask them to report your hours.

AREA II CONFERENCE REPORT

The annual IRTA Area II Conference was held on Monday, March 16, 2009, at the Randall Oaks Golf Club in West Dundee, Illinois. Featured speakers included 1) The Honorable Linda Chapa LaVia, a State Representative from the 83rd District (Aurora), 2) Jim Bachman, the IRTA Executive Director, and 3) Bob Lyons, TRS Board member. The speakers addressed current issues such as budget shortfalls, pension funding, and health care concerns.

Unit 90 was represented at the conference by the following members: Doris Haack, Jesse Macro, Roger Steingraber, Reinhard Taylor, Bobby Reinhardt, Liz White, Bob Ferguson, Jeanne Arcus, and Bob Lyons.

TRS Report – April 2009

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

It was just last year that we were angered and frustrated by the inability of the General Assembly and Governor Blagojevich to deal with the growing problems that our state faced. Mike Madigan, the Speaker of the House, and Emil Jones, the President of the Senate, could rarely agree and our Governor's interests did not include governing. We wished for a change; we wished for a government that could get things done, and our wish was granted. A new Governor and a new President of the Senate are working with Speaker and they have moved to achieve ethics and reform, as they define it. "May you get what you wish for" might be the greatest curse of all! Worse than a government that does nothing is a government that does the wrong thing. In a period of 24 hours the Illinois House and Senate passed and Governor Quinn signed a bill into law that terminated Jon Bauman, our Executive Director, from office, removed from the TRS board three honest, capable, and dedicated appointed trustees, and increased the number of appointed positions from four to six. In the name of ethics and reform they seem set on taking back the control of our money in our pension fund and returning the majority of the board to the Governor. There is a quote attributed to Mark Twain, "No man's life, liberty, or property is safe when the legislature is in session". The State of Illinois showed what it could do to anyone and they are doing it to us.

Governor Quinn's budget proposal called for teachers, university employees, and state workers to contribute more for their pensions and for those yet to be hired to receive less benefits. The Governor wants current teachers to increase their annual contribution from 9.4% to 11.4%, a requirement that is clearly unconstitutional. He wants to require new teachers to teach until they are 67 for a pension that would be based on the average of their base salary over their last eight years and to do away with the automatic 3% compounded increase of their pensions. Quinn is using the proposed changes in pension benefits for new employees and the increase in contributions of current ones, which he claims will eventually save \$162 billion, to justify reducing the state's pension contribution to TRS for Fiscal Year 2010 by almost two-thirds, or more than \$1.3 billion, and a combined reduction of over \$2.5 billion for all five pension funds. Our own actuaries calculate his hoped-for-savings at closer to \$33 billion if they did take place and that they would not start saving money until forty-some years from now. Governor Quinn is using exaggerated savings based on drastic steps that have not been accepted by the legislature and will be fought by all of the unions involved to attempt to justify reducing the payments required by the fifty year payment plan first started in 1995.

What To Do Now: **Make an appointment with your legislators, write them a letter, call them, send an email, or do all four.**

Ask your legislator that if the corruption that occurred five years ago was done by appointees of the Governor, how will having more appointees to put the control back in the Governor's hands be a solution? Tell them to rescind that part of Public Act 96-0006 which increased the number of gubernatorial appointments by two bringing the number back to four.

Considering that the need for ever larger payments to our pension fund is the result of the state not making their required payments going back thirty years, ask your legislator how will the state reducing their payments be a solution? The average retirement benefit paid by TRS is \$41,500 and considering that many recipients do not qualify for social security that may be their only source of retirement income. This current fiscal year because the contributions that we receive do not equal the benefits we pay out we will have to sell by the end of June \$1.475 billion in assets. Next year, FY 10, following the established repayment plan would require the state to pay \$2,089,268,000 into the TRS pension fund, but Governor Quinn's budget calls for only \$747,577,000, a shortfall of \$1,341,691,000. Since the size of the shortfall increases each year if the cut of almost 2/3 that Quinn proposes is accepted by the legislature, the negative cash flow would be significantly above \$3 billion for next year. And If that proposal were extended indefinitely, and even assuming that we immediately go back to earning 8.5% on our investments, **the system's total assets will be depleted by FY 2023 and three of the other four funds will be depleted even sooner.** The State of Illinois would then be required to make payments to all benefits recipients directly from general revenue. This scenario assumes no changes in benefits for new hires and no changes in the contributions from new hires or current employees. This is not some far off date where we can assume that none of us are likely to be around. Depending on the age of the legislator you are talking to they will imagine that they are still holding office fourteen years from now. Ask them if they want to see the money that the State of Illinois has to spend for education, health care, or roads and bridges instead be required to go to pay pensions directly. We do not want to see that day, but if they vote not to give us what is required by the 1995 law than it will be their responsibility when that day happens and it will happen. Ask your legislators to vote for full funding now. Together we can make a difference, and if we don't, who will?

The following are the Governor's recommendations for the pensions:

	FY09 Certified Contribution	FY 10 Certified Contribution	FY 10 Governor Introduced	FY 10 Difference
TRS	\$1,451,789,000	\$2,089,268,000	\$ 747,577,000	(\$1,341,691,000)
SERS	\$ 827,225,000	\$1,167,263,000	\$ 390,958,000	(\$ 776,305,000)
SURS	\$ 450,216,000	\$ 702,514,000	\$ 337,604,000	(\$ 364,910,000)
Judges	\$ 59,983,000	\$ 78,832,000	\$ 37,925,000	(\$ 40,907,000)
Legislators	\$ 8,847,000	\$ 10,454,000	\$ 2,800,000	(\$ 7,654,000)
Total	\$2,798,060,000	\$4,048,331,000	\$1,516,864,000	(\$2,531,467,000)

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.

Unit 90 WEBSITE: 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, TRS reports and pension concerns, and Unit 90 events with photos! Thanks to the Webmaster, Reinhard Taylor.

ADDRESS LABELS

The address labels on the front of the newsletter show your status as a local member and as a state member. Local Dec 08 means that you have paid your local membership through December of 2008. The State membership has the following code: A is annual + current year; D is automatic deduct + start year; L is Life + start year; Y is 5-year membership + end year.

UNIT 90 DIRECTORY

Unit 90 directories were sent to all members along with the April newsletter unless you received a directory by email in March. If you did not receive a copy of the directory and would like one email: Leonard Kortekaas at lmkortekaas@yahoo.com or write me at (21 Tall Grass Court; Streamwood, IL 60107-1277).

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

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90

2009 SUMMER LUNCHEON

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

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;

Legislative Update:

Bob Lyons:

(TRS Board Member)

"State of the STATE"

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**

Reservation Deadline Wednesday, June 10, 2009

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

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

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Name _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____ Tilapia _____

Salad Waldorf Salad

Email address _____

Guest Name _____ Cobb _____ Chicken _____ Tilapia _____

Salad Waldorf Salad

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

Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90

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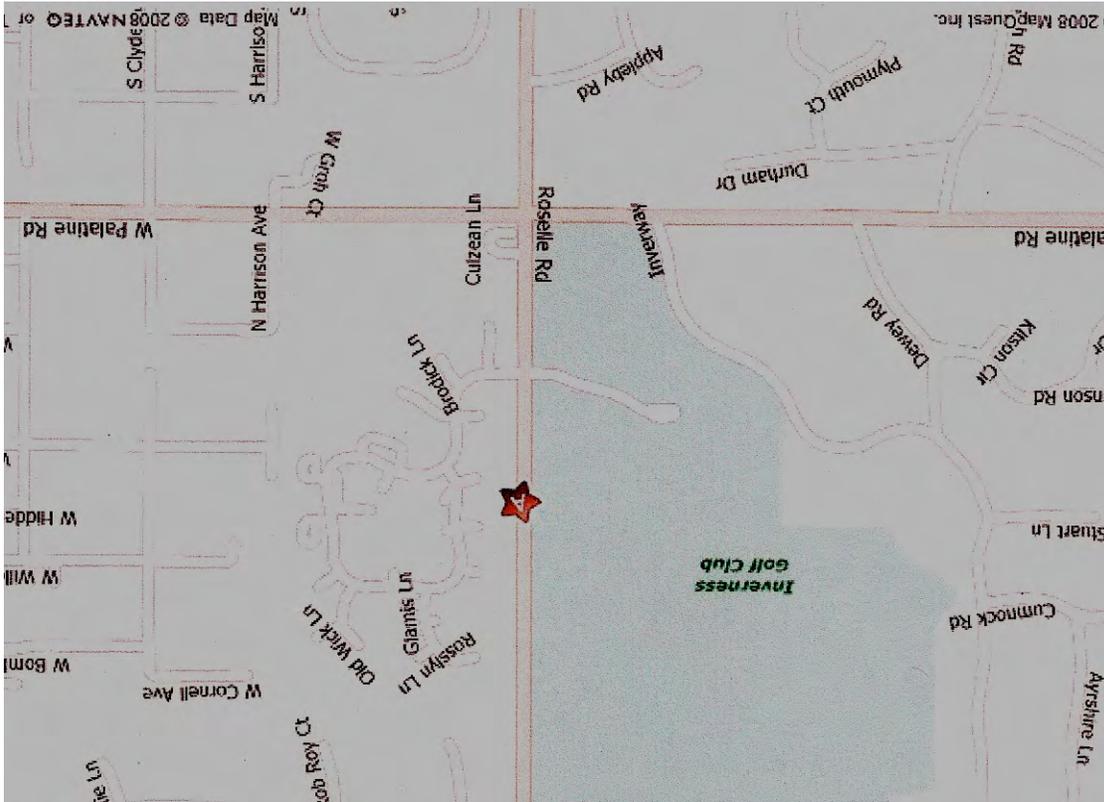
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[Click here for the Summer Luncheon Form](#)



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED