



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT March 9, 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER

APRIL 15 (TH) or APRIL 28 (W) – Tour with Bill Hinchliff

[Click here for flyer](#)

JUNE 22 (T) – Summer Luncheon

SEPTEMBER (Date to be determined) – Day at the Races

OCTOBER 6 (W) – Legislative Breakfast

DECEMBER 9 (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 on two different dates in April with Bill Hinchliff. See the enclosed flyer for more information. We also have plans for two luncheons (Summer and Holiday), A Day at the Races in September and a breakfast with the legislators in October. Please join us in our activities.

IRTA 2010 LEGISLATIVE GOALS

The Legislative Committee of IRTA at its February 11, 2010 meeting discussed the following goals (State and Federal) for 2010:

1. Support FY2011 pension appropriation that requires the state to honor its pension funding as found in law.
2. Support the present level of benefits in TRIP with cost containment.
3. Oppose a two tiered retirement system.
4. Support legislation which provides that the majority of the Teachers Retirement System Board of Trustees be elected trustees.
5. Support legislation that provides an ad hoc increase for those members retired prior to January 1, 1980.
6. Repeal the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) of Social Security.

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, 2010 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 wcmirta1@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

Volunteers are needed to serve as Educational Surrogate Parents for children receiving special education services who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Child's parents are unavailable to act on their educational behalf.
2. Live in residential facilities
3. Are under the guardianship of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Department of Corrections (DOC)

The responsibility of the surrogate is to work with the school district on the child's behalf to ensure they receive a free, appropriate public education. Surrogates receive six hours of training followed by a brief test. Upcoming local training sessions are scheduled for Fri. March 19 in Streamwood and Fri. April 9 in Elgin. For complete information about these and other training sessions go to www.sased.org or phone (630)889-7393.

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.

TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board

The stock market tends to be a leading economic indicator and will generally recover before the economy does. In December the national unemployment rate climbed to 10% and in Illinois to 11%. The various equity indexes turned positive last year in early March. The TRS pension fund shared in that recovery. Our best asset classes were in equities of emerging nations and other overseas stocks and also in high yield bonds. Our worst investments were in real estate and short and long term government bonds.

The total fund posted an absolute return of 3.79% in the fourth quarter of the calendar year, which put us ahead of our index of all public funds by 91 basis points (just over 9 tenths of a percent) and almost in the upper third of all funds. For the first six months of the fiscal year we returned 15.33% on our investments and 190 basis points over the index. For the last three years our annualized rate of return was a negative 2.26%, but it is positive for five years with a performance of 3.31% and the ten year number climbs to 4.08%. It will take us some time to recover from 2008.

We started FY 2010 with \$28.5 billion and 39% funded and by December 31, 2009 we had climbed to \$32.1 billion and 43% funded, in spite of a negative cash flow of benefits over contributions. Rounding the numbers for the six months we took in contributions of \$350 million from active teachers, almost \$835 million from the state, \$77 million from employers for a total of \$1.262 billion, while at the same time we ran our office for \$9.5 million and gave out benefits over \$1.972 billion for a total deduction of \$1.981 billion, which gave us a negative cash flow for the first half of the year of over \$719 million.

It is important for the state to live up to their obligations to fund us on an annual basis. In order to fulfill that requirement this year they had to borrow the money. What will they do for the next fiscal year?

IRTA Unit 90

Income/Expense Statement for 2009		Balance Sheet for 2009	
Income		Checking Account	
Membership Dues	\$8,883.00	Balance 1/1/2009	\$13,533.17
		Income	\$8,883.00
		Expenses	\$7,192.17
		Balance 12/31/2009	\$15,224.00
Total Income	\$8,883.00	CD'S Balance 12/31/2009	\$5,728.72
Expenses		Advocacy Funds	
Printing & Mailing	\$3,605.88	Balance 1/1/2009	\$160.00
IRTA Foundation	\$325.00	Donations	\$143.00
Membership	\$312.12	Paid Out	\$150.00
Luncheons	\$1,214.04	Balance 12/31/2009	\$153.00
Area 2 Conference	\$135.00	REPAC Funds	
State Convention	\$1,243.50	Balance 1/1/2009	\$948.00
Gifts	\$38.00	Donations	\$105.00
Web Hosting	\$114.95	Paid Out	\$582.00
Bus Tours	\$203.68	Balance 12/31/2009	\$471.00
Total Expenses	\$7,192.17	Total All Accounts	\$21,576.72

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2010

OFFICERS:

President: Leonard Kortekaas : 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 2010

This spring's tour is The Fabulous North Shore of Chicago, hosted by Bill Hinchliff, who has been teaching courses on Chicago architecture and history for over 20 years.

It starts at the Evanston Public Library, one of the outstanding works of Post-Modern architecture. We continue to the Dawes Mansion, home of the Evanston Historical Society. This grand mansion was once the home of Vice President Charles Gates Dawes under Calvin Coolidge. After lunch at the Celtic Knot in downtown Evanston, we'll tour the sculpture garden of the Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University. Next we'll visit the striking Baha'i Temple, one of the most unusual buildings in the U.S. We'll end the day with a drive through Kenilworth to see a marvelous collection of Victorian, Prairie, and Revivalist homes.

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 Thursday, April 15 or Wednesday, April 28. 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)

Departure from: Forest View Education Center
North Parking Lot A (see map on back)
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 \$ _____

