



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **November 3, 2010**

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at the Wellington of Arlington. Take this opportunity to celebrate the upcoming holiday season with you fellow Unit 90 members. The Barrington High School Madrigal Singers will perform. See the flyer for specific details. 'Tis the season to be jolly; so see you there!

2011 SPRING TOURS

Unit 90 is starting to prepare for the 2011 Spring Tour. Because of the popularity of these tours, we will again host the same tour on two separate days during the last two weeks of April. More information will be in our March newsletter.

IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

IRTA offers the following Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA) benefits:

- Long Term Care/Home Health Care insurance
- Long Term Care Annuity
- First Diagnosis Cancer insurance
- Final Expense Whole Life insurance
- Tax Deferred Annuity
- Ameritas Dental insurance
- Vision Service Plan (VSP)
- Astrum Hearing Solutions
- Medical Air Services (MASA) for Emergency Transportation
- Apple and Dell computer discounts
- Government Employee Travel Opportunities
- Avis, Budget, and Hertz rental car discounts
- CSI Identity Theft Protection
- 1-800-Flowers discount
- Barnes & Noble online discounts

For information about any of these benefits, you can visit the IRTA website at www.irtaonline.org for ID codes or call AMBA at 800.258.7041.

TRS Report – November 2010

By Bob Lyons, elected annuitant, Illinois Teachers' Retirement System Board
By the time you are reading this, the election will be over and the Illinois State Senate which is scheduled to go back into session on Thursday, November 4, may have just voted to borrow \$3.7 billion dollars to fulfill the State's pension obligation to the five pension funds for this fiscal year, or possibly there were not enough affirmative votes and they have decided to adjourn and come back later in the month. Borrowing short term to make a necessary payment for a long-term obligation is not good financial management, but even worse, it is not making the payment at all.

As I have reported, the State of Illinois is obligated to pay \$2.35 billion to the Teachers' Retirement System for FY 11 and all that we have received is \$90 million in July and nothing since then and nothing is expected until they find a source of revenue. We started July with \$31.45 billion and we are currently paying out \$342 million in benefits, so we have been forced to sell some assets.

Fortunately this last quarter ending in September has been a good period for our investments with more money coming in than going out and the early numbers for the start of the month of October had us with more \$33 billion in the fund with a return of 5.9% in three months. Of course that also means that the assets, which we are required to sell every month to take the place of the money the State is not giving to us, were likely turning a profit for us.

The TRS Pension board meets the last week of October and one of our responsibilities is to inform the State of Illinois what they will be required to contribute to the fund for Fiscal Year 2012. We are to that point in the fifty year plan to bring us to 90% by 2045 where the increases the State faces between the years should be considered more manageable. Our actuaries have determined that Illinois needs to contribute \$2.4 billion for FY 12, which is a 2% increase, or \$48 million more than this year's number. The State is going to have face that obligation. Not paying what they owe does not mean the debt goes away.

I sent out a chart by email comparing the five state pension funds and I was asked later what was the average annuity for each fund. You should recall that for retired educators last year it was approximately \$43,000 and it should have gone up to about \$45,000 for this year. The numbers below are from a year ago because the new numbers have not been realized by the other funds.

Average annuity in fiscal year 2009 for a retired member of the:
General Assembly Retirement System is \$48,316 for 275 retirees
Judges Retirement System is \$109,173 for 647 retirees
State Employees Retirement System is \$26,663 for 44,566 retirees
State Universities Retirement System is \$33,120 for 38,400 retirees
TRS Retirement System is \$43,164 for 84,510 retirees.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer to be an ombudsman for residents of long-term care facilities as part of a program run by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago. The ombudsman speaks with residents and their families at the facility to empower residents so they are treated with dignity and respect, receive appropriate personal and medical care, and are able to exercise determination. An ombudsman is responsible for visiting the [nursing home](#) four hours monthly where you are to establish a cooperative and [trusting relationship](#) with residents and the facility staff. Six hours of training and a four hour supervisory probation is required prior to designation as a volunteer ombudsman. For more information call the [Long Term Care Ombudsman Project](#) at 888-401-8200 and ask to speak with Megan Cancila, Volunteer Coordinator.

UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings of the Unit 90 Executive Board are open to ALL interested members. The meeting schedule for 2011 is as follows : January 5th, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, August 3rd, September 7th, October 5th, and November 2nd. Please join us 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, 2010 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, and Unit 90 events with photos!

If you want an up-to-date 2010 electronic directory (pdf file) just e-mail your request to Reinhard Taylor at: irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net.

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 wcmirta1@comcast.net with the subject IRTA UPDATES.

In praise of the \$100K a year teacher

Tuesday, October 12th, 2010 10:00 PM

By John Hubbuch

Citizens and taxpayers, lend me your eyes. Today I come to praise the \$100,000 teacher, not to bury him. Like the bird migration to Florida, every fall we are treated to a number of stories of taxpayer outrage that there are teachers in the public school system who make more than a \$100,000 per year. Such outrage is ridiculous.

Teachers who make such sums typically have 30 years of experience and a year or two of education beyond a master's — almost as much education as a doctor or lawyer. If you start out making \$40,000 per year and receive a 3 percent raise each year for 31 years, you will make more than \$100,000. The point: If you have a lot of education and get modest raises for 30 years working in any job, you will make a lot of money. Younger, less educated teachers don't come close to \$100,000.

Corporate America is filled with less educated younger workers who make \$100,000. Having worked in big law firms, I can assure you that some of them are not particularly deserving. Now the teacher haters will cite tenure as to why educators have their jobs for life, but trust me, in litigating America everyone except white males under 50 has a kind of tenure, as well.

It amuses me that the groups most opposed to teacher compensation are the so-called capitalists. Hey — I've got news — collective bargaining is legal. The good old days of head-cracking Pinkertons are long gone. In this country we don't have a wage board that sets salaries. You get what your employer pays you. How much should an educated, experienced teacher make? An accountant? A checkout clerk? An airline pilot? Jim Belushi? Miley Cyrus? Bears offensive linemen?

Teaching is important work. If we are to have any chance at competing in the global economy with India, China and the European Union, then we will need lots of educated young people. Education is the only way we will ever break the cycle of dysfunction that afflicts so many poor families.

In this country you can choose what you want to be when you grow up (see Obama, Barack). Some people choose to be teachers. Some choose to operate their own business. Some work for big corporations. Some play music or do art. Each job has entry requirements, a salary, fringe benefits, a career and a retirement program. If things don't work, you can quit and get another job. The conceit in all this is that anyone can be a teacher. Absurd. Lesson plans, professional development, meeting parents, and most importantly, standing in front of 30 kids five or six times a day for 180 days a year ain't easy. In fact, very few people have the intelligence, compassion and energy required to be a teacher.

That a few of these men and women, who work 30 or more years at this demanding job and wind up making \$100,000, just doesn't seem so outrageous to me.

John Hubbuch, an Indiana native who moved to Oak Park in 1976, is a retired lawyer. Hubbuch served on the District 97 school board and coached youth sports. He is the father of three and grandfather of one.

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,

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

2010 Holiday LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Wellington of Arlington

2121 S. Arlington Heights Road; Arlington Heights, IL 60005

(847) 439-6610

Social Hour 11:00

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00

Menu Choice of one:

Petite Filet: prepared medium rare with vegetable medley and, twice baked potato;

Broiled Salmon with Béarnaise Sauce, double baked potato and vegetable medley;

Breast of Chicken Wellington

white wine sauce, with avocado slices & tangerines twice baked potato, and vegetable medley

Each entrée served with:

Soup, House Salad, hot rolls, coffee or tea.

Dessert: **Chocolate Mousse**

Reservation Deadline Wednesday, December 1, 2010

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

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

Name _____

(email address _____)

Guest Name _____

Petite__

Filet

Petite__

Filet

Broiled_____

Salmon

Broiled_____

Salmon

Chicken____

Wellington

Chicken _____

Wellington

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

Phone _____

Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90

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

