



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT May 4, 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 21 (T) – Summer Luncheon
SEPTEMBER 7 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast
SEPTEMBER 15 (TH) – Day at the Races
OCTOBER 17-18 (M-T) – State IRTA Convention
DECEMBER 7 (W) – Holiday Luncheon

SUMMER LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 21, 2011, at the Kemper Lakes Golf Club (See map for location). The program will be Bob Lyons, TRS Board Member. See the attached flyer for specific details. GOLFERS : See special flyer.

TENTH ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the Tenth Annual Day at the Races on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the Arlington Park Racecourse. The cost of \$50.00 per person includes: complimentary general parking, admission to the racecourse, the Daily Racing Guide, and a lavish two-hour buffet including beer, wine and soft drinks in the International Room. For reservations, send your check payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90 to Rich Chierico at 1453 East Norman Drive, Palatine, IL 60074 by Thursday, September 8, 2011. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sponsored by RSVP, Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the FREE Senior Celebration Day is scheduled for May 11 from 11:15 - 3:15 at Arlington Park International Racecourse. It is an informative event with many exhibitors including the Secretary of State, where you can renew your driver's license or apply for a State ID card. A doctor's panel has been very popular at past Senior Celebrations and there will be several entertainment acts scheduled throughout the day. Tickets are necessary and may be picked up at area Senior Centers or at the Racecourse when you arrive. Entrance to the event is off New Wilke. Although it is very short notice, volunteers may still be needed to assist at various booths. Call Linda McLaughlin at RSVP at (847) 228 - 1006 if you would be able to volunteer.

AREA II CONFERENCE REPORT

The Area II Annual Conference was held on Monday, March 28, 2011, at the Randall Oaks Golf Club in West Dundee. Marti Swanson, the Area II Representative, introduced the three main speakers: Jim Bachman (IRTA Executive Director), Terry Link (State Senator, 30th District), and Bob Lyons (TRS board member).

Mr. Bachman discussed various legislative issues including: 1) Senate Bill 2279, which amends the Illinois Pension Code and extends the 120/600 hour employment limitation for annuitants through June 20, 2021, 2) TRIP health insurance, which will likely include a 5% increase in premiums, and 3) the IRTA PAC (Political Action Committee) donation option through pension deduction.

Senator Link talked candidly about the "difficult" and challenging times in Springfield ranging from pension system problems, fiscal/taxation issues, and re-districting of the General Assembly concerns.

Dick Ingram, the new TRS Executive Director, was introduced. Bob Lyons reviewed the status of the TRS pension system and noted that the TRS unfunded liability was created by state officials, who since the 1950's decided NOT to give TRS all of the money required to cover current and future pension obligations.

The following Unit 90 members attended the conference: Len Kortekaas, Denise Florczak, Reinhard Taylor, Bob Ferguson, Bob Lyons, Rich Chierico, Jesse Macro, Doris Haack, Bob Kaplan, Liz White, and Carolyn White.

TRS Report – May 2011

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

For the last two fiscal years the State of Illinois has been forced to borrow the money in order to make its pension contributions, but as a direct result of the tax increase in January the State's share of the funding for this next fiscal year will come from general revenue. Friday, April 15, the Illinois Senate sent legislation to Gov. Quinn that will spend \$6.4 billion to pay the five state pension funds for FY 12 and also for the cost of its past borrowing.

In the last weeks of this legislative session you can expect to hear from both Republican and Democrat legislators that the cost of our pensions is going to require drastic cuts in many vital and necessary state programs. The two parties will disagree on how much to slash and from what part of the budget, but they will both agree that it is our fault. You can count on the Chicago Tribune, the Civic Club, and a chorus of special interests to declare us guilty of hurting state government and the people of Illinois because of our selfish "gaming of the system."

Do not accept that guilt. What did we do? It is totally undeserved because the problem faced by Illinois today comes from nothing that we did. We did not cause the problem, what we did was our job. We never decided what we would get paid; school administrators and school boards did that. We never decided what were the rules that would determine when we would retire and what our pensions would be worth; state legislators and governors decided those matters. Over the years we paid into our pension fund exactly what we were required to contribute, six percent with my first paycheck and eight percent with the last, and current teachers 9.4%. But what did the state of Illinois do with its share of the agreement?

From 1953 through 2010 paid on average 56% of what TRS actuaries determined was necessary to fully fund the pensions. Illinois for all five pension funds has saved approximately \$29 billion dollars by not contributing what they should have, that \$29 billion was used by the State to pay for its other expenses to everyone's benefit. Illinois residents/taxpayers got to benefit from the use of the money that should have gone to the public pension funds. And now they want us to feel guilty. I don't think so.

If the Teachers' Retirement System and the other four pension funds had received the required funds from the State of Illinois, then the systems could have invested the funds and grown the assets. As a result of not having the money to invest, the total unfunded liability has grown to be over \$85 billion. If the State had contributed what it should have over the years, pension funding today would be a non-issue! For this current fiscal year, \$700 million of the State's payment to TRS represents "normal cost", the amount determined by the actuaries necessary to fund the pensions of current teachers. The other two thirds, over \$1.4 billion, was required to make up for what Illinois did not put into the fund in the past.

For retired teachers, for the last twenty years 49% of our pension check comes from the success of TRS investments, 22% is from the contributions paid by active teachers, 4 percent from school districts, and 25% from the State. The people of Illinois need to know that Illinois teachers and other public employees have earned their pensions and have paid their full share to ensure their retirement. Today the pension payment cost, which the State is required to make, is not high because pensions are high, but rather because – throughout the years – the State did not meet its own funding responsibilities. Don't let them make us the guilty party.

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 11 means that you have paid your local membership through December of 2011. 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.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2011

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

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Ambassador: Roger Steingraber

ATTENTION GOLFERS

If you are a current member of Unit 90 and like to play golf, this is the offer for you!

A few lucky Unit 90 golfers will be able to play Kemper Lakes following our Summer Luncheon on June 21, absolutely free.



In order to be considered for this special treat, you must bring a new member to the summer luncheon who has signed up for the Unit 90 "special 5 year rate". This will be confirmed by our membership chairperson, Bobby Reinhardt.

We will not be certain how many can play until shortly before the luncheon. Spaces available will be determined after members of Kemper Lakes Golf Club make tee times. Unit 90 can have some of the remaining tee times.

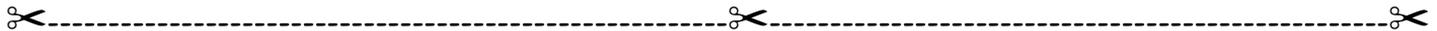
Therefore, if you wish to be considered to play, please fill out the form on the bottom of this sheet and send it, along with the new member's information and check to:

Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane., Palatine IL 60067-7357

Those wishing to golf, and have a new member attending the luncheon will be listed in sequence of returned forms. Liz White will call those who will be able to play a few days prior to the luncheon.

If you are selected to play, bring your clubs and please remember:

- 1) Appropriate attire is required (no jeans; shirts must have collars)
- 2) Bring plenty of golf balls; after all it is called Kemper LAKES
- 3) Keep pace!



Please return to: Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane., Palatine IL 60067-7357

Member's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

New Member's Name: _____ District retired from _____

New Member's email address: _____ Year Retired: _____

New Member's Telephone number: _____ Date Received by Unit 90 _____



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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May 2011

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, the Illinois State Legislature as well as various economic factors and political events 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 Northwest Suburban IRTA – Unit 90 now, as this reminder will be your **LAST NOTICE**. If you do not join at this time, I hope that you will seriously consider joining in the future. 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 - Unit 90

2011 SUMMER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

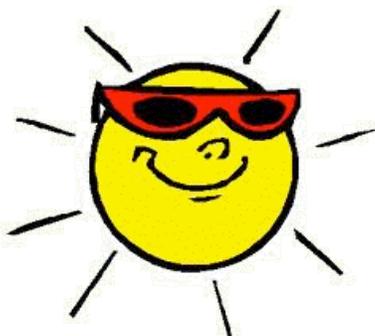
Kemper Lakes Golf Club

24000 Old McHenry Road; Kildeer, IL 60047

North of Rte 22 (about one mile) on Old Mc Henry Road; 847-320-3450



Menu Choice of one:



Chicken and Berry Salad:

Greens, Grilled Chicken, Strawberries, Raspberries and Raspberry Vinaigrette (on the side) -or-

London Broil:

Marinated Flank Steak, Caramelized Onions and Mushrooms -or-

Atlantic Salmon:

Grilled Salmon filet, with Orange and Basil Beurre Blanc

Each entrée served with: Fresh Vegetable Soup, Mashed Potatoes, and Grilled Vegetable Medley

Dessert: Chocolate Sundae

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

Program:

Mr. Bob Lyons
TRS Board Member

Reservation Deadline: June 14, 2011

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

Questions: Call Liz White: 847-397-1678



Name: _____ Chicken _____ London _____ Grilled _____
Salad Broil Salmon

Email address: _____

Guest Name: _____ Chicken _____ London _____ Grilled _____
Salad Broil Salmon

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

