



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 2, 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE 12 (T) – Summer Luncheon
SEPTEMBER 5 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast
SEPTEMBER 20 (TH) – Day at the Races
OCTOBER 2 (T) – Legislative Breakfast
DECEMBER 4 (T) – Holiday Luncheon

SUMMER LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 12, 2012, at the Inverness Golf Club (See map for location). The program will be Bob Lyons, TRS Board Member. See the attached flyer for specific details.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the Eleventh Annual Day at the Races on Thursday, September 20, 2012, 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 13, 2012. For further information, contact Rich at 847-358-7816. See attached flyer.

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.

TRS Report – May 2012

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

When all is said and done, you will receive your full pension for the rest of your life. And once past your 61st birthday your check in February every year will increase by three percent – compounded. With your passing, your spouse will receive one half of your pension for the rest of his/her life. You have heard differently; yes, there are those who would take away what you have now and what you have been told you will have in the future. They would if they could, but they can't.

Warnings of insolvency, proposals to reduce pension benefits, and even concerns about amending the constitution. Even with significant longevity our pensions are safe. Sadly the same thing cannot be said for the young teachers who replaced us. Their pensions are in question. Governor Quinn said of his pension proposal that the plan would save taxpayers \$65 billion to \$85 billion, which means that it could reduce the value of the pensions for current public employees by that amount.

The warning of insolvency for the TRS pension fund was meant for the legislature. If for every year going forward the state of Illinois contributes annually only what TRS will receive this year, \$2.4 billion, then we run out of money by June of 2038. Give TRS less and it comes sooner, give the fund more, but not much more and it still will run out, only later. The reality is that something will be worked out.

Quinn's pension proposal, which is a long way from being written into a bill, promises to pay our pensions in full by having current teachers pay more, work longer, and receive significantly smaller benefits. How is that not unconstitutional? "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State . . . shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

TRS Director, Dick Ingram was asked a series of hypothetical questions by a Springfield reporter on how could the cost of the pensions be reduced. By the time the Courier Journal, the Tribune, and the Daily Herald were done it had evolved into "TRS Director argues for cutting benefits." That is not the message of the TRS Board and System.

Your pension, which includes the annual three percent increase compounded, has already been earned and not only the Illinois Constitution but also the Federal Constitution protects it as well.

In April the Illinois House unanimously passed a resolution that if it is passed by the Senate and signed by the Governor would propose a constitutional amendment to be voted by the electorate in November. The amendment if passed will require a three-fifth vote rather than a simple majority by the legislature to approve any increase in pension benefits. While the expectation of actual pension enhancements now or in the future would be unlikely, it would also make it more difficult to correct the current unfairness of requiring Tier II teachers to pay 9.4% of salary for a pension worth no more than a 6% contribution.

For those of us already retired the likely ease in passing this amendment sets up a concern that this same process could be used to attempt to change our benefits, such as the COLA. While that concern is real, the unfairness of any attempt to take away a pension benefit that public employees have already earned would make it a harder sell and more difficult to pass. An amendment to be added requires a 60% vote itself, or a majority of those voting in the election. In addition Section 10, clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution enumerates powers denied to the States including passing any law impairing the obligation of a contract. Putting something unconstitutional into the Illinois Constitution doesn't work.

Certainly there are those who want to take away what you have, but they will not start with us. First they

have to go after the benefits of current state employees, community college and university people, and our friends and colleagues that are teaching now. They are worth fighting for and they serve as a firewall between us and the R. Eden Martins and Ty Fahners that would feel better knowing that we were earning our sustenance from hourly wages rather than living on pensions that they are convinced they are paying. Find out if your legislator or their opponent is on our side and offer to work for the one that will work for you.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: May 18 and 19 are Forget-Me-Not Days to benefit Alzheimer's care, support and research. Volunteers are needed to collect donations and hand out packets of Forget-Me-Not seeds at intersections and storefronts.

Volunteers are needed to help plant and maintain a community garden at London Middle School in Wheeling

A summer adventure camp is looking for groups of nine or more volunteers to assist for one day of the camp program which runs from June 14 to July 15. Individuals would also be welcome. The volunteer group will receive training from 11:00 - 11:45 and go through a debriefing from 4:15 - 4:45. Volunteers will be involved with children ranging from 4 yrs. through 7th grade by assisting with arts/crafts projects, reading books to campers and assisting with organized games/sports. The camp has several field trips scheduled where chaperones are also needed.

For additional information or to volunteer, contact RSVP at 847-228-1006.

Free event: Senior Celebration at Arlington Park International Race Track on May 9 from 11:00 to 3:15. Tickets are needed and are available at most area Senior Centers.

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 12 means that you have paid your local membership through December of 2012. 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.

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 wcmirtal@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.

Also if you want a current copy of Unit 90's directory emailed to you, email me, Len Kortekaas, at lmkortekaas@yahoo.com and I will forward one to you. (Email only please as no printed copies are available)

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2012

OFFICERS:

President: Leonard Kortekaas : lmkortekaas@yahoo.com

Vice President: Liz White

Secretary: Richard O'Brien

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, Reinhard Taylor

Member Benefits: Denise Florczak

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Ambassador: Roger Steingraber

Illinois Retired Teachers Association - Unit 90

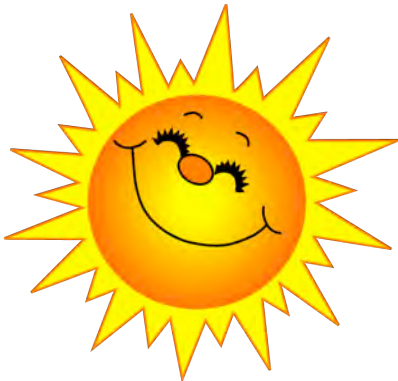
2012 SUMMER LUNCHEON

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Inverness Golf Club

102 North Roselle Road; Palatine, IL 60067

Corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads; 847-358-2340



Menu -- Choice of one:

Roast Pork Loin:

With Stuffing, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans

-or-

Tilapia Almondine:

With Rice Pilaf, and a Seasonal Fresh Vegetable

-or-

Peachy Grilled Chicken Salad:

With Spring Mix, Shaved Radicchio, Avocado, Candied Pecans, and Chicken Breast with Honey Dijon Dressing

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

Each entrée served with: Watermelon Gazpacho,
Hot Rolls, Coffee or Hot Tea

Vegetarian Lunch
also Available

Program:

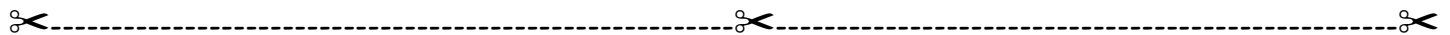
Mr. Bob Lyons
TRS Board Member

Dessert: Chocolate Explosion

Reservation Deadline: June 5, 2012

Guests are welcome!
Valet Parking Available at \$3

RSVP to Liz White, 5805 Prairie Ln.; Palatine, IL 60067-7357
Questions: Call Liz White: 847-397-1678



Name: _____ Pork Tilapia Chicken
Loin Almondine Salad

Email Address: _____

Guest Name: _____ Pork Tilapia Chicken
Loin Almondine Salad

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



Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90



Eleventh Annual

Day at the Races



Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the

Eleventh Annual Day at the Races

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012

at the Arlington Park Racecourse

11:15	Gates open	Send your reservations to:
12:00	Access to International Room	Rich Chierico
12:30 - 2:30	Lunch buffet	1453 E. Norman Dr.
12:30 - 3:30	Bar	Palatine, IL 60074
1:00	Post time	

The **cost of \$50 per person** includes complimentary general parking*, admission to the racecourse, the Daily Racing Guide, a lavish two-hour buffet in the International Room and wine, beer, soft drinks, juices and water.

Make the check payable to:
Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90

Deadline is Thursday, September 10, 2012

For further information, call Rich at: 847-358-7816

* Preferred parking is available for \$5.00. It is self-parking closer to the entrance.
Valet Parking at the Club House entrance is available for \$10.00.

Return this reservation form to: Rich Chierico, 1453 E. Norman Dr., Palatine, IL 60074

Name (Print): _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Guest Name: (Print): _____ Phone: _____

Make the check payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90

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

