



# ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**August 1, 2012**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

SEPTEMBER 5 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast

SEPTEMBER 20 (TH) – Day at the Races

OCTOBER 2 (T) – Legislative Breakfast

DECEMBER 4 (T) – Holiday Luncheon

### **WELCOME BREAKFAST: NEW RETIREES**

The Executive Board of Unit 90 is hosting its Sixth Annual Buffet Breakfast for new retirees on September 5, 2012, at the Arlington Heights Senior Center. The purpose of the breakfast is two-fold: to welcome new retirees to Unit 90 and to give them an opportunity to learn more about IRTA, the only professional organization which solely serves retired teachers. For more details, see the enclosed flyer or contact Liz White at 847-397-1678.

### **DAY AT THE RACES: ELEVENTH ANNUAL**

**(click here for form)**

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. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

### **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: Meet and Greet**

**(click here for form)**

Make your plans now to attend the Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday October 2, 2012, at the Inverness Golf Club. A number of incumbents and candidates have been invited to the breakfast. Take this opportunity to sit down and talk with the Legislators/candidates face-to-face at the Meet and Greet session. For more information, see the enclosed flyer. Note: Valet parking is available.

## **TRS REPORT – AUGUST 2012**

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

What Changed? What Changed?

Since Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan prefers to see the cost of the pension benefits as the cause of our state's pension problem, it came as no surprise this past spring that he proposed a solution that called for reducing the cost of the COLA for active teachers and other current public employees. What did come as a surprise is that the proposed legislation also included the possibility of retirees' COLA benefits being diminished. Actually for me the word "surprise" was an understatement. I was shocked! Legislators of all stripes – Republicans and Democrats, conservatives and liberals – had repeatedly said that their efforts to reduce the size of the unfunded pension liability for TRS and the other systems would never ever even consider touching the benefits of those already retired. They told us we had not only already earned what benefits we were receiving, but that those benefits were guaranteed to us by the Illinois State Constitution. Having sworn as a state legislator to "protect and uphold the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Illinois; I not only believed them, but I went so far as to tell others that our pension benefits could never be "diminished or impaired."

So what has changed? The "pension-problem solvers" have made the decision to follow the advice of that notorious career-thief, Willie Sutton. As legend has it, when asked why he robbed banks, Sutton replied, "Because that's where the money is!" The state's legislative leaders and our governor realized that if they wanted to save money (and to do it now rather than later) that it wasn't enough to reduce the benefits of just those who are currently working, that they needed to reduce the cost of the benefits of those of us that are already retired. They went to where the money is. One is reminded of the old adage "No one's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session". Governor Quinn and the legislative leaders have, fortunately for their cause, found lawyers who have been willing to tell them that what they want to do is constitutional. The lawyers' argument is to present both active workers and retirees as well with a forced choice between two equally unconstitutional alternatives and that the simple act of choosing makes the subsequent result acceptable and legal. Keep the existing COLA, but give up access to state provided health care. Keep the access to health care, but receive a significantly inferior COLA. If you have a hard time following their logic, just understand their plan could possibly take more than \$30 billion from our pensions over the next thirty years.

The exact components of Senate Bill 1673 or any ultimate pension reform bill remain in flux, because the legislators themselves disagree on which proposals need to be enacted in order to close the system's unfunded liability and to secure the long-term financial sustainability of TRS. Check the TRS website for the exact details of the bill: <http://trs.illinois.gov/>

Before voting in the November election, you need to know if the candidates from your district favor or oppose diminishing your pension benefits, including your health care. Through websites, emails, and newsletters we will be providing information about the positions of the candidates on our issues. And then you need to let the candidates know where you stand. Use letters, emails, phone and visits. Remember all that's involved is your pension and your health care.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A ONE-DAY EVENT:** The 2012 Prairie State Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Challenge will be held Sept. 29 from 7:30 - 5:00. The CERT program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic response skills. This includes fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and medical operations. The Challenge will bring in teams from all over Illinois to test their skills in a simulated disaster situation. Volunteers are needed for various positions including parking lot assistance, registration, role playing as victims and assisting at team stations. Times would vary according to the job. To volunteer, contact Linda Trilling at [linda.trilling@volunteerinfo.net](mailto:linda.trilling@volunteerinfo.net) or call Hands on Suburban Chicago at 847-228-1320

**VOLUNTEERS** are needed for **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS** at several area middle schools. District 21 has an ongoing program at Jack London Middle School in Wheeling and Cooper Middle School in Buffalo Grove. The program meets Mon. and Wed. afternoons from 3:30 - 5:30. MacArthur Middle School in District 23 meets Wed. afternoons from 3:00-4:00. District 59 is starting a program at Grove Junior High School on Tues. and Thurs. afternoons starting at 2:30. Volunteers will help students with homework and reading and should be willing to commit to one day per week. For more information or to sign up, contact Patty Newswanger at [schoolresources@volunteerinfo.net](mailto:schoolresources@volunteerinfo.net) or at 847-228-1320.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS**

### **AT&T Discounts for Retired Educators**

AT&T has business agreements with thousands of corporations, government agencies, and educational institutions to offer wireless products to their employees at a significant discount. Go to an AT&T office and ask for the retired teacher discount (code FAN 2433737). You must present some sort of ID to an authorized AT&T retailer that determines you are a retired teacher such as a W-2 form in order to receive the discount.

**Visit the new & improved IRTA website at**

**[www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org)**

Sign up to receive a no obligation auto insurance quote from **AAA** and be entered to **WIN** an iPad or 4 tickets to see the Chicago White Sox on September 9th!

**Unit 90 WEBSITE: [www.irta-unit90.org](http://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.

## **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 email updates and want to receive them, please send your name and email address to Bill McCauley at [wcmirta1@comcast.net](mailto: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 email Bill McCauley with the subject IRTA NEWSLETTER.

### **UNIT 90 DIRECTORY**

Unit 90 directories are available to all members. If you would like to receive a copy of the directory emailed to you, email me, Leonard Kortekaas at [lmkortekaas@yahoo.com](mailto:lmkortekaas@yahoo.com) and I will forward a copy to you. (Email only as no printed copies are available.)

## **NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2012**

### **OFFICERS:**

President: Leonard Kortekaas: [lmkortekaas@yahoo.com](mailto: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



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

Unit 90 Members and their Guests are invited to attend  
**A Breakfast with Your Legislators and Candidates**

**Inverness Golf Club**

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, IL 60067 847-358-2340

Valet parking available

**Tuesday October 2, 2012**

**9:30 am**

Sponsored by

**The Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

*Invited* Guests include:

State Senator Mike Noland	22 <sup>nd</sup> District
State Senate candidate Cary Collins	22 <sup>nd</sup> District *
State Senator Mike Murphy	27 <sup>th</sup> District
State Senate candidate David Page	27 <sup>th</sup> District *
State Senate candidate Gary Dunlap	27 <sup>th</sup> District *
State Senator Dan Kotowski	28 <sup>th</sup> District
State Senate candidate Jim O'Donnell	28 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative Fred Crespo	44 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative candidate Ramiro Juarez	44 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative candidate David McSweeny	52 <sup>nd</sup> District
State Representative candidate Dee Beaubien	52 <sup>nd</sup> District *
State Representative David Harris	53 <sup>rd</sup> District
State Representative candidate Curt Renz	53 <sup>rd</sup> District
State Representative Tom Morrison	54 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative candidate Richard Rudd	54 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative Michelle Mussman	56 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative candidate John Lawson	56 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative Sidney Mathias	59 <sup>th</sup> District
State Representative Carol Sente	59 <sup>th</sup> District

\* (Pending the results of a petition challenge)

Visit [www.irta-unit90.org](http://www.irta-unit90.org) to find your legislative districts

Fill out the attached registration form and return it with your check for \$20.00

by Tuesday September 25 to:

Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane, Palatine, IL 60067 Questions? Call Liz at 847-397-1678

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check: \_\_\_\_\_



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

## THE PENSION YOU PROTECT IS YOURS

