



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 7, 2012

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at Inverness Golf Club. 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!

2013 SPRING TOUR

Unit 90 is starting to prepare for the 2013 Spring Tour sometime during April or May. More information will be in our March newsletter.

IRTA MEMBER BENEFITS

Don't forget to use your member benefits. With the holidays soon approaching, you just might be sending flowers. Take advantage of our FLOWER DISCOUNT. Save up to 15% on discounts from 1.800.Flowers when ordering by phone at 1-800-356-9377 or online at www.1-800-Flowers.com. Use promotion code "AMBA" to receive your discount. Visit www.irtaonline.org for the latest listing of all of our member benefits.

TRS Report – November 2012

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

Last spring, TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram was quoted in the press as saying that cutting current pension benefits would save the system money. His defense of the remark was that he was not advocating that action, but answering a question. At a special meeting members of the board conveyed the message to him that he should only be talking about solutions to our system's underfunding that are constitutional. Since that time I have heard Dick Ingram speak a number of times and I have been satisfied with his message.

The article that recently appeared in Crain's Chicago Business titled "Head of teacher pension fund says state will need to cut COLAs" came as a most unhappy surprise to me.

Our TRS director had once again made the mistake of talking to a media outlet that had its own agenda. He was quoted as saying that other states had reformed their pensions by cutting the COLA. Ingram said that he was just talking about the subject and not advocating a course of action

I heard from many of you through phone calls and emails. One email just said, "Fool me once" Many members said the director should resign or be fired. While I could certainly understand such sentiment, I was very conscious of the fact that it had taken TRS more than a year and a half and two national searches to find Dick Ingram. I also had no interest in seeing the Chicago Tribune and Mike Madigan make Ingram into a martyr who had been fired because, as they would put it, "he dared to tell the truth".

Mike Blickhan, President of Adams County RTA, asked a most significant question when he wrote to me, "Has the board lost confidence/trust in Director Ingram? (I know as a TRS ANNUITANT I have)". That was one of several questions I had when we started our regular October TRS meeting this on October 24th. Each board member found at his/her place a letter from the Executive Board of the IRTA which called on the TRS board to control what our director said to the media and to repudiate his remarks. In the public comments section of our meeting, Janet Kilgus, President of IEA-Retired, spoke of the concerns of her members, and Ed Wollet, President of the DeWitt-Logan Counties RTA and Legislative Representative of his region, expressed the dissatisfaction and anger of those annuitants whom he represented.

The TRS board then went into executive session which lasted more than three hours on Wednesday and more than an hour again on Friday. What we did as board in executive session will by law stay in executive session. Publicly we reaffirmed our position of last spring:

"The Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System reiterates and reaffirms its resolution of March 30, 2012 (as amended on April 30, 2012) declaring that present legislative action is paramount to ensure the continued solvency and viability of the plan, by providing for fairness and equity in benefits, adequate funding and adherence to generally accepted actuarial principles and standards. Additionally, the Board of Trustees underscores its unalterable position that any changes to the Pension Code must adhere to the Pension Protection Clause, Article 13, Section 5, of the Illinois Constitution of 1970."

To answer Mike Blickhan's question, the board's confidence in Director Ingram was certainly shaken, but not broken. Someone else sent me an email saying that Ingram has done a terrible job in every respect, but that is simply not true. He has misspoke twice when talking to the press, but in terms of running the system and growing the morale of our staff, he has done an excellent job. Since what was done was done in executive session, I can say no more than the board has now taken steps that give me confidence that going forward, Dick Ingram will convey the message that the state will need to look to increased funding rather than cutting benefits to move our pension fund toward solvency. Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director, asked if I was certain last spring that the problem had been solved and I answered yes. The difference this time is that I am convinced that Dick Ingram truly understands the anger, the concern, and even the fear

that many of our annuitants and active teachers felt about his remarks, which could be used in an attempt to take from them the benefits that they have earned.

When the director of a governmental agency speaks, he is speaking for the board. When Director Ingram speaks, he will be speaking for the TRS Board, which is committed to growing and protecting our pensions for the benefit of all of our members, actives and retired.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tutors are needed for the Jump Start program which serves incarcerated youth at the St. Charles and Warrenville facilities. Youth are recommended by their teachers for the program and then elect to attend the tutoring program. If they are not cooperative, they are removed from the program because there is a waiting list of youth eager to enter the program. Tutors are asked to spend one and one half hours each week on a regular schedule. Tutoring sessions are scheduled on week days between 9:00 and 3:00. Wed. evenings are also possible. There is an application process for volunteers which includes a background check. Once that is completed the volunteer will be scheduled for finger printing, an observed drug test and a tuberculosis check. The funding bodies require that volunteers attend an orientation session and tutor training before they begin working with the youth. Tutors make a positive change in the youth's life and the youth who participate have a reduced rate of recidivism. For more information or to apply to be a tutor contact Literacy Volunteers at info@lvillinois.org or by phone at 312 - 857 - 1582.

For further volunteer opportunities, check the Hands On Suburban Chicago website at <http://volunteerinfo.net>. There are many needs that are very different from the frequently highlighted "tutoring" needs.

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, 2012 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, and Unit 90 events with photos!

If you want an up-to-date 2012 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/newsletters and want to receive them, please send your name and e-mail address to Reinhard Taylor at: irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net with the subject IRTA UPDATES/NEWSLETTERS. Doing this helps keep our costs down and your membership fees low.

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: Reinhard Taylor

Webmaster: Reinhard Taylor

Legislative: Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro

Foundation: Doris Haack

Program Coordinators: Rich Chierico, Carolyn White,

Information Services: Richard Chierico

Member Benefits: Denise Florczak

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Ambassador: Roger Steingraber

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90

2011 Holiday LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 (\$24 each)

Inverness Golf Club

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067 (corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads)
(847) 358-2340 Valet Parking Available



Menu Choice of one:

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

Roast Pork Loin with stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes and fresh green beans
Broiled Salmon with Honey Mustard Sauce, Rice Pilaf and fresh green beans

Mediterranean Pasta Salad: crisp romaine lettuce, grilled chicken breast, red onion, Kalamata olives, artichokes, feta cheese, tomatoes and pepperonici tossed with rigatoni and a tomato garlic vinaigrette

Each entrée served with:
cream of asparagus soup, hot rolls, coffee or tea

Dessert: Chocolate Explosion

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

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

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

Name: _____

Pork Loin ____ Broiled Salmon ____ Chicken Salad ____

Email: _____

Guest Name: _____

Pork Loin ____ Broiled Salmon ____ Chicken Salad ____

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

Make checks payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90

