



# ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT May 1, 2013**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

JUNE 11 (T) – Summer Luncheon  
SEPTEMBER 4 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast  
SEPTEMBER 19 (TH) – Day at the Races  
OCTOBER 21-22 (M-T) – IRTA State Convention  
DECEMBER 3 (T) – Holiday Luncheon

### **SUMMER LUNCHEON**

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 11, 2013, 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.

### **TWELFTH ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES**

Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the Twelfth Annual Day at the Races on Thursday, September 19, 2013, 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 Monday, September 9, 2013. 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.

## TRS Report – May 2013

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

Illinois, Your Debt is Due

These days when you're talking to an Illinois legislator about what they like to call the "Pension Problem" don't be surprised if they say, "We need to get past the finger-pointing and solve the problem". Well, there is a rather obvious reason that they would want to move beyond the "Blame Game"; they're to blame. The General Assembly and the past Governors of our state annually and repeatedly made the decision to divert funds that both by actuarial standards and Illinois statute were required to go to the five state public employee pension funds. They often used that money for more political popular "ribbon-cutting" causes.

An annuitant of our system, Keith Erhart, asked if TRS could go back to 1970 and add up what we should have received from the State of Illinois. Dave Urbanek, TRS director of commutations, and Kathleen Farney, the system's director of research, put a chart together that shows for every year what the actuaries determined should be paid, then what the state statutes called for, and lastly what the State actually paid to the Teachers' Retirement System. In the earliest years Illinois just saved tens of millions of dollars, but starting in the early 80's when then Governor Thompson and Illinois faced an economic recession, the shortening of the pension fund grew into more than a \$100 million annually. From that point it simply got easier to stretch State dollars and it seemed painless.

When you add up the numbers the actuarial requirement for FY1970–2014 comes to \$47,582,510,000, the State actually paid \$32,819,459,000, and the difference, what the State of Illinois shorted TRS, is \$14,763,051 billion. Of course because we did not have that money to invest, the unfunded liability has grown to \$53 billion. Illinois does not have a pension problem; what they have is a "debt problem".

And for those of you thinking that either we should sue the State as a system, or as individuals, the Illinois Constitution guarantees that the pensions will be paid, and they currently are, and not that the system will be paid, which it obviously has not. As long as you and I get our full pension check every month we have no basis to sue the State.

Looking at the differences between what was received and what should have been paid is especially significant by decades:

FY1970-1979

Actuarial Requirement -- \$1,741,648,000 Actual Payment -- \$1,144,593,000 Not Paid and Owed -- \$597,055,000

FY1980-1989

Actuarial Requirement -- \$3,938,171,000 Actual Payment -- \$2,191,340,000 Not Paid and Owed -- \$1,746,831,000

FY1990-1999

Actuarial Requirement -- \$9,221,060,000 Actual Payment -- \$6,779,300,268 Not Paid and Owed -- \$2,441,760,000

FY2000-2009

Actuarial Requirement -- \$15,887,886,000 Actual Payment -- \$9,579,881,000 Not Paid and Owed -- \$6,308,005,000

FY2010-2014

Actuarial Requirement -- \$16,792,765,000 Actual Payment -- \$13,124,345,000 Not Paid and Owed -- \$3,668,420,000

**When talking to a legislator, ask them, "If the State of Illinois shorted our pension fund by almost \$15 billion dollars since 1970, a debt that has grown to \$53 billion, why does that justify reducing my benefits in order to pay the fund what you owe us? Do you think that is fair? Do you think that is legal?"**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As I'm writing this, there is an urgent call out for volunteers needed to assist in the clean-up efforts due to the recent flooding. Obviously this immediate need will have passed by the time you receive this newsletter. But if you would be willing to help with emergencies in the future, send an email to [linda.trilling@volunteerinfo.net](mailto:linda.trilling@volunteerinfo.net) and your name will be added to the list. I received emails on the 21st and the 22nd calling for help. They instructed me who to contact with the Red Cross to help distribute bulk items to flood victims and who to contact in Emergency Management to relieve individuals who are filling sandbags in McHenry County. If HandsOnSuburbanChicago (volunteerinfo.net) has your information, you would receive emails for urgent, last-minute needs. You would also receive periodic (usually every month or two) information on a wide variety of volunteer opportunities.

## **Member Benefits**

In an effort to improve the quality of benefits available to IRTA members, the IRTA board has endorsed various benefits for our members. One of these benefits is a Hearing Plan Discount Benefit. As an IRTA member, you and your spouse are entitled to free annual hearing screenings and special discounts on hearing aids. For more information, please contact Hear in America at 1-800-286-6149 or visit [www.hearinamerica.com](http://www.hearinamerica.com). Check the IRTA website, [www.irtaonline.org](http://www.irtaonline.org) for the latest listing of all of our member benefits.

## **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](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

## **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 13 means that you have paid your local membership through December of 2013. 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 Reinhard Taylor [herrtaylor@comcast.net](mailto:herrtaylor@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 Reinhard 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](mailto: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 - 2013**

### **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: Reinhard Taylor

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

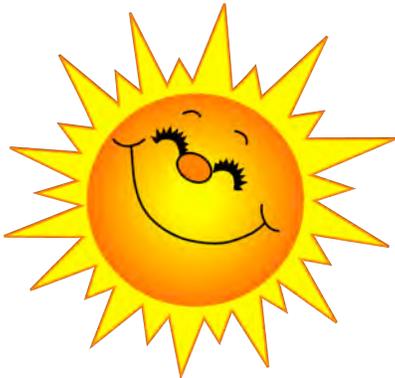
# 2013 SUMMER LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, June 11, 2013**

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-

### Thai Skirt Steak Salad:

Warm Thai-marinated skirt steak, on field greens, with carrots, red & green onions, cucumber, pea pods, tomato with Oriental Thai dressing & almonds

-or-

### Citrus Salmon Spinach Salad:

Baby spinach tossed with cherry tomatoes, mushrooms, onions, mandarin oranges, citrus-marinated grilled salmon with citrus vinaigrette dressing

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

### Program:

Mr. Bob Lyons  
TRS Board Member

**Each entrée served with:** Chilled melon soup, hot rolls, coffee or hot tea

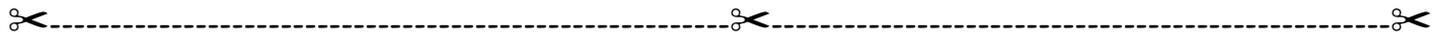
**Dessert:** Raspberry sorbet with freshly baked cookie

**Reservation Deadline: June 4, 2013**

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 \_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_  
Loin Salad Salad

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

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pork \_\_\_\_ Steak \_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_  
Loin Salad Salad

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

