



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 7, 2013

DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER 4 (W) – New Retirees Breakfast

SEPTEMBER 19 (TH) – Day at the Races

OCTOBER 2 (W) - Executive Board Meeting - Arlington Heights Senior Center - 10AM

OCTOBER 21-22 (M-T) – IRTA State Convention

NOVEMBER 6 (W) - Executive Board Meeting - Arlington Heights Senior Center - 10AM

DECEMBER 3 (T) – Holiday Luncheon

JANUARY 22, 2014 (W) - Paramount Theatre's production of **42nd Street**

WELCOME BREAKFAST: NEW RETIREES

The Executive Board of Unit 90 is hosting its Seventh Annual Buffet Breakfast for new retirees on September 4, 2013, 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: TWELFTH ANNUAL

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. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

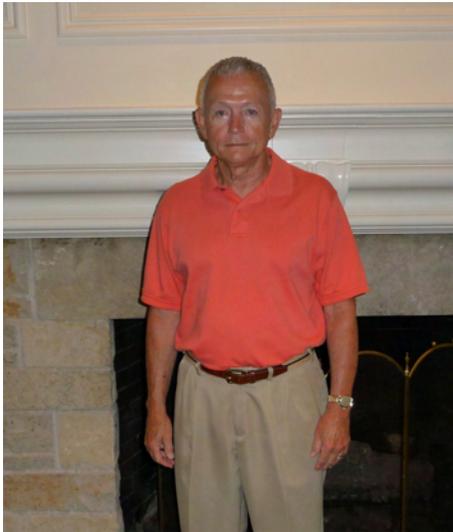
IRTA STATE CONVENTION

The 2013 IRTA State Convention will be held at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL on October 21-22, 2013. Unit 90 has been allotted 41 OFFICIAL delegates and will cover ALL convention expenses (except hotel). To be a Unit 90 delegate you must be a state member within a unit. (This includes deduct, annual, 5 year, and life members). If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please call Len Kortekaas at 630- 823-8653 or e-mail me at lmkortekaas@yahoo.com by Friday August 23, 2013.

Note: Non-delegates can also attend but must pay their own convention expenses.

UNIT 90 STATE CONVENTION HONOREE

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that the Unit 90 - Northwest Suburban Executive Board has selected Robert L. Ferguson as our Unit Honoree at the State Convention.



In 1999 Robert Ferguson retired from Township High School District 211, where he helped open two new schools: Conant High School in 1965 and Hoffman Estates High School in 1973. Robert's many memories as an educator include his experience as the Athletic Director at Hoffman Estates High School (first six years) and his induction into the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Hall of Fame (1999).

On the local level, Robert served faithfully as the Unit 90 Foundation Chair for two years and as the Treasurer for six years. According to Robert, he has sincerely enjoyed the comradeship and unifying spirit of the retired teachers.

Through his dedicated service and his loyal commitment to the mission of IRTA, Robert Ferguson is truly an outstanding representative of Unit 90 and IRTA.

TRS REPORT – AUGUST 2013

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

For Illinois' current Fiscal Year 2014 TRS annuitants can certainly count on their pension checks from TRS to arrive on time and to include the full entitled amount. This amount will also include - for those who are eligible - the three-percent COLA increase in the pension check to be distributed on the 1st of February, 2014.

The General Assembly's conference committee on pensions met recently for three times and since those meetings they have met once in closed session. They heard from the pension system actuaries about how much money the latest reduction proposal would possibly save the state over the next thirty years. While the committee is no longer considering Speaker Madigan's SB1, or the We Are One-President Cullerton's SB2404, I think you can assume that the General Assembly's goal is a reduction in our long-term pension benefits that will be somewhere in-between what was considered in those two previous bills. To avoid the need for a super-majority vote in the General Assembly, the yet-to-be voted-on pension proposal will not go into effect until after June 1 of 2014.

Considering that the current foremost goal of our state government is to produce a bill to reduce the pension benefits of public employees, we should be happy that Illinois can not get anything done. Quinn came to government as a populist and using his line item veto to delete legislators' salaries certainly applies to the people. As low as his own popularity, Quinn knows that members of the General Assembly are held by the public in even less regard. Even though the move is likely unconstitutional, he has for the moment won applause from the people and the support from many editorial boards, but it will do nothing to move his agenda. I would predict that the legislators will not pass a pension bill until they use the courts to restore their pay. To do otherwise would make it look like it was Quinn's action that caused

them to do their job. I am a student of government and politics, and I would be dismayed by these events, but for the fact that I can take heart that my pension is still safe.

I think that you can count on the pension bill that is finally sent to Governor Quinn for his signature will be declared unconstitutional. The more money that the General Assembly seeks to save, the more that they diminish the growth of our benefits; the more certain the bill is unconstitutional. As the ink is drying on the bill, lawyers representing the Illinois Retired Teachers Association will walk into an Illinois District Court asking for an immediate injunction to stop the bill from going into law until its constitutionality has been ruled on. Since it is almost a certainty that the legislators' final product is going to go beyond in savings what SB2404 would have caused, the IRTA will be joined by the other unions, including the IEA and IFT in these legal proceedings. Whichever side loses in the district court will then file an appeal and ask that the Illinois Supreme Court immediately consider the appeal.

And now the most significant question: can we can count on the Illinois courts, which means ultimately the Illinois Supreme Court, to rule on a law that would diminish and impair our pensions on the basis of the Illinois constitution alone? I was a history teacher, and I also taught government, even Illinois government. I have lived my whole life in Illinois, except for the time I was in the Air Force. I know our state; I know the politics of our state. Having said that, I still believe the judges will do what is right. However, Speaker Madigan will want the judges to recognize the concept of "economic distress," and that it is then necessary for the State to reduce the cost of the pensions. I still have to believe that the judges will go by past precedence and the actual letter of the law and will say our pensions are protected and that Illinois has the means to increase its revenue to pay for them. I do not know how long this all will take, but certainly for at least the next year you can count on your current existing pension. After that it will depend on the judges of the Illinois Supreme Court.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HandsOnSuburbanChicago is looking for active or retired military to serve on a Veterans Advisory Council beginning this fall. The objective is to make veterans aware of services available to them, support nonprofit organizations that deliver these services and engage veterans in volunteer activities. For details and an application contact Courtney Barden at courtneybarden@volunteerinfo.net or 847 - 228 - 1320 ext. 120

Homelessness has received recent attention following a fire in an Arlington Heights parking garage which destroyed all the possessions of a homeless woman. As cold weather approaches, PADS programs throughout the northwest suburbs will begin. Volunteers need to fill out applications with one of the agencies that organize these programs.

IRTA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS (for aspiring teachers)

In order to help nurture the future of teaching, the IRTA Foundation provides scholarships to promising college students who are pursuing teacher certification. The IRTA Foundation awards six (6) \$1,500 scholarships to juniors or seniors in college who are majoring in Education. Beginning in November 2013, the 2014-15 applications will be available at all community colleges in Illinois and on-line at www.irtaonline.org/Scholarship or www.irta-unit90.org. The application deadline is March 7, 2014.

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.

E-MAIL UPDATES/NEWSLETTERS/DIRECTORIES

If you are not currently receiving email updates and want to receive them, please send your name and email address to Reinhard Taylor 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 email Reinhard with the subject IRTA NEWSLETTER.

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 and I will forward a copy to you. (Email only as no printed copies are available.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90 EXECUTIVE BOARD – 2013

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: Reinhard Taylor
Member Benefits: Denise Florczak
Volunteer Services: Carolyn White
Ambassador: Roger Steingraber



Twelfth Annual

Day at the Races



Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the

Twelfth Annual Day at the Races

Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013

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 Monday, September 9, 2013

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

DAY AT THE RACES
Thursday, September 19, 2013

DAILY CHEF'S TABLE

SMOKED CHEESE PLATTER

With Cheddar, Gouda, Swiss and assorted crackers

WARM HUSH PUPPIES

With red pepper jam

COUNTRY SPREADS

*Pimento cheese spread and
smoked almond bacon dip with assorted crackers*

PICKLED GARDEN VEGETABLES

*Carrots, cucumbers, cauliflower and
peppers in a tangy marinade*

SOUTHERN SALAD

*Mixed greens, berries, spiced pecans,
blue cheese crumbles and white balsamic dressing*

BLT SALAD

*Crisp greens, smoked bacon, Cheddar cheese,
tomatoes, homemade croutons and buttermilk dressing*

WILD RICE AND SWEET CORN SALAD

Tossed with cilantro vinaigrette

SWEET POTATO HASH

With red peppers, onions and fresh herbs

GRILLED MARKET VEGETABLES

Topped with basil vinaigrette

HOUSE SMOKED TURKEY

With apricot cranberry chutney

BROWN SUGAR GLAZED SPIRAL HAM

With whole grain mustard

BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

With orange honey

ASSORTED DINNER ROLLS

With whipped butter

RED VELVET CAKE

With cream cheese frosting

LAYERED BANANA PUDDING PARFAIT

With vanilla wafer cookies

Beer and Wine

Miller Genuine Draft and Miller Lite, Copperidge Chardonnay and Merlot,
Woodbridge White Zinfandel

Non-Alcoholic

Soft Drinks, bottled water and assorted juices

Package includes:

Admission, a Daily Racing Guide, the Daily Chef's Table, a Seat in the International
Room, Beer & Wine Package, and Complimentary General Parking

\$50.00 per person

For reservations, send your check (payable to *Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90*) to:
Rich Chierico at 1453 E. Norman Drive, Palatine, Illinois 60074.
by Monday, September 9, 2013. For further information, call Rich at (847) 358-7816.

Preferred parking is self-parking closer to the entrance and is \$5.00.

Valet parking at the clubhouse entrance is \$10.00 per car.