



# ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May 7, 2014

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**June 10 (T) – Summer Luncheon**

**September 18 (Th) - Day at the Races**

**October 15 (W) – Legislative Breakfast**

**December 2 (T) – Holiday Luncheon**

### SUMMER LUNCHEON

Make your plans now to attend the Summer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 10, 2014, at the Inverness Golf Club. The program will be Bob Lyons, TRS Board Member. See attached flyer for specific details.



### 13th ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

#### A SPECIAL BENEFIT EVENT

Make your plans NOW to attend the 13th Annual "A Day at Arlington Park", an exciting and enhanced event to benefit the IRTA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, on Thursday, September 18, 2014. Not only will you have a fantastic time, but your support will also help to protect your pension benefits. For more information, see the enclosed flyer.

### TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board



In the last ten years forty-nine states have passed “reforms” of public pensions as public retirement systems faced increasingly larger unfunded liabilities and became the targets of strong public pressure to reduce both benefits and future taxpayer costs. Especially following the financial crisis in 2008, state legislatures in numerous states passed laws to increase employee contributions, delay retirement dates, and generally lower benefits. Some state constitutions contained little or no protections to stop the changes while others totally blocked the proposed reductions.

For Illinois the creation of a second tier of public employees hired after the start of 2011

was an easy and legal first step. An ever-growing number of new teachers and other public workers are paying contributions greater than they can hope to receive in retirement benefits. There will come a time in the not too distant future where the federal government will say to the State of Illinois, "Your government pensions are inadequate benefits and your public employees will need to be covered by social security".

Approaching the end of 2013 with the state's continued inadequate contributions resulting in a combined \$100 billion in total unfunded liabilities,

the Illinois General Assembly passed SB1 and Governor Pat Quinn signed the bill into law to significantly reduce the benefits of not only current teachers and other public employees, but retirees as well. I can say nothing about the merits of the suit brought by the IRTA, the IFT, and the IEA as I am a party to the suit. The unions and our own organization were required to sue not only the governor but the board of the retirement system as well. It is OK, I do not take it personal.

I believe I can deal with one of the most persistent questions that retirees are asking TRS and that is when will the new law actually affect us. The simple answer is not until the end of January, 2015 when our COLA for that year will first be diminished. It is certainly possible that even that might be delayed if prior to that date the district judge in Springfield grants an injunction to stop the law from going into effect until its constitutionality is determined, but there is no telling if and when that may occur. Pre-trial questions and motions will be first addressed in a hearing before the judge on May 22.

Talking to lawyers in Illinois and also looking at other states like Arizona and Michigan we can expect it possibly may take two years or more before the Illinois Supreme Court renders a final verdict.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Northwest Student Exchange is looking for culturally interested families to host foreign exchange students during the 2014 -15 academic year. Hosts provide room and board for their student. Students would be with the host family for one semester (5 - 6 months), one year (10 months) or a shorter stay of several weeks with multiple hosts for the student. If you know of a family who might be interested in hosting a student, you would receive a small referral fee for each family that hosts a student. Go to [www.nwse.com](http://www.nwse.com) for more information and an on-line host application form. There are also coordinator positions open in Illinois. The coordinator is responsible for placing students with the host families and then monitoring them on a monthly basis. There is a small stipend for the coordinator. If you wish to contact a local representative, email Marge Ryan, [marge@nwsemail.org](mailto:marge@nwsemail.org) or call her at 1 - 262 - 749 - 0564.

VOLUNTEER at O'Hare International Airport, staffing information desks or walking the terminals helping out confused and vulnerable travelers. Volunteers would be scheduled for a weekly shift varying from 2 1/2 to 5 hours. Volunteers staff the terminal seven days a week. Training will be provided. We look for volunteers interested in a long-term volunteer position, who are able to pass a background check, and who are over 18 years old. If interested, or for more information, send an email to [annette.sommer@volunteerinfo.net](mailto:annette.sommer@volunteerinfo.net).

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

If you have not done so yet, please check out the NEW Unit 90 website, which includes current information on the following topics: Executive Board members and meeting minutes, the latest IRTA Call to Action, GPO/WEP Issues, 2014 IRTA Foundation Scholarship information, TRS reports and pension concerns, legislative updates, and Unit 90 events with photos! Our thanks go to the Webmaster, Reinhard Taylor.

If you want an up-to-date 2014 electronic directory (pdf file) just e-mail your request to Reinhard Taylor at: [irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net](mailto:irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net).

**NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT 90  
EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2014**

**OFFICERS:**

President: Robert Kaplan ( [bob.kaplan@comcast.net](mailto:bob.kaplan@comcast.net) )  
Vice President: Liz White  
Secretary: Richard O'Brien  
Treasurer: Sandy Ratter

**CHAIRS:**

Membership: Roberta Reinhardt  
Communications: Reinhard Taylor  
Webmaster: Reinhard Taylor  
Legislative: Robert Lyons and Jesse Macro  
Foundation: Doris Haack



Program Coordinators: Rich Chierico, Liz White  
Information Services: Reinhard Taylor  
Member Benefits: Denise Florczak and Rich Chierico  
Volunteer Services: Carolyn White  
Newsletter Coordinator: Leonard Kortekaas

Illinois Retired Teachers Association - Unit 90

# 2014 SUMMER LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

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 and fresh green beans

-or-

### Chicken Cordon Bleu Crepes:

White meat chicken with ham; served with fresh vegetable and rice pilaf

-or-

### Asian Chicken Salad:

Grilled teriyaki chicken breast, mixed greens, red peppers, almonds, pea pods, mandarin oranges, green onions and sesame soy dressing

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

**Dessert:** Chocolate Explosion with vanilla ice cream

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

## Program:

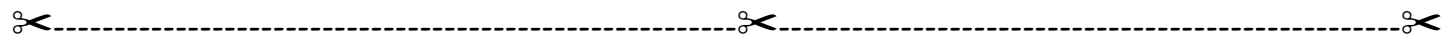
Rich Frankenfeld  
of TRS

He will talk about our health insurance and can answer questions people may have about our health insurance.

**Reservation Deadline: June 4, 2014**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Crepes \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_  
Loin \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_

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

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pork \_\_\_\_\_ Crepes \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_  
Loin \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00 each) Member Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**



# To protect YOUR pension support the IRTA Legal Defense Fund

Attend *A Day at Arlington Park*

Make a contribution to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund

## A Day at Arlington Park

**When:** Thursday, September 18, 2014

**Cost:** \$100 per person

**What:** Includes complimentary general parking, admission to the track, the Daily Racing Guide, a two-hour buffet in the International Room with a 3 hour open bar, as well as soft drinks, juices and water, indoor viewing and access to outdoor seating to view the races.

**Time:**

|              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 11:15        | Gates open                   |
| 12:00        | Access to International Room |
| 12:30 - 2:30 | Buffet lunch                 |
| 12:30 - 3:30 | Open bar                     |
| 1:00         | Post time                    |

**Why:** To benefit the IRTA Legal Defense Fund



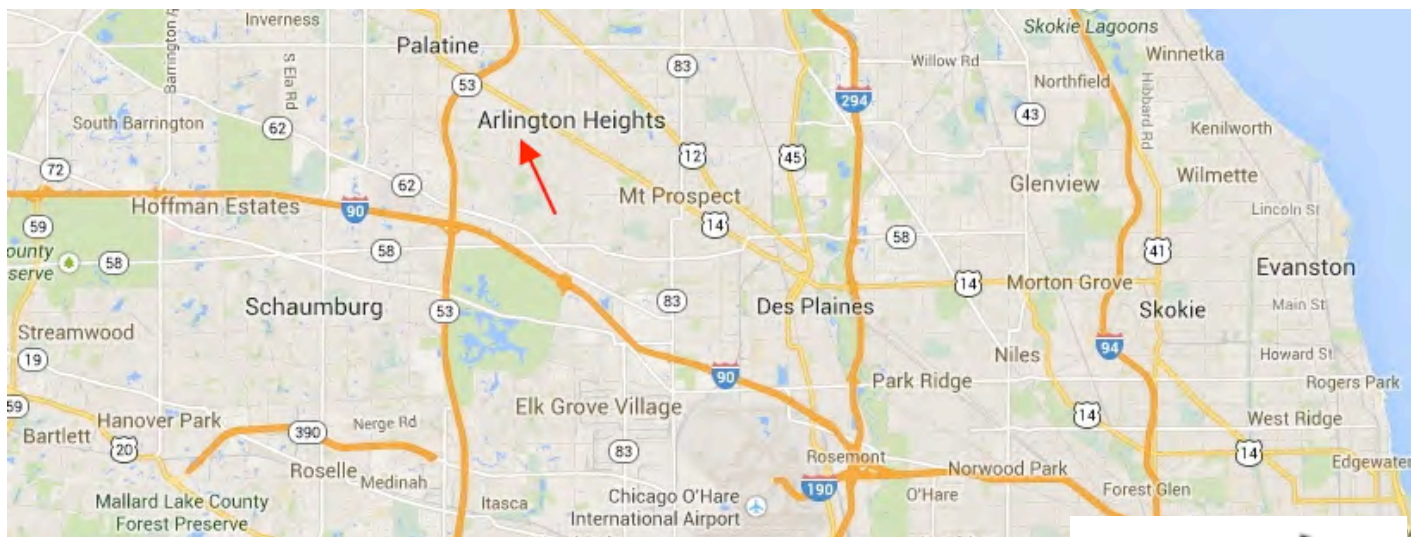
The Illinois Retired Teachers Association pledged to legally challenge any law that violates the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution. On Dec 27, 2013 we fulfilled that promise. The IRTA Board of Directors had the foresight to establish the legal defense fund in the summer of 2012. They realized that we would someday be in the courts defending the constitutional protection of retired educators' pension benefits. The establishment of this fund provided us the opportunity to hire one of the most highly regarded law firms in the State to represent retired educators.

**Defending retired educators' benefits in the courts will not come cheap. It is necessary that we continue to raise funds for this purpose. The IRTA applauds the contributions by local units and individual members.**

This event organized by the Northwest Suburban RTA will not only be fun but is also for a worthy cause.

Please consider joining us at the track on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

*Jim Bachman, IRTA Executive Director*



Response Form is on the reverse side.



# A Day at Arlington Park

## Response Form

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Person(s) to be seated with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Ticket(s) for "A Day at Arlington Park": \$100 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot attend the event, but I would like to  
make a contribution to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other Amount

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets will be mailed to your address above.

**Please respond by September 1, 2014**

**Make checks payable to:** Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90

**Memo:** A Day at Arlington Park

**Send form and check to:** Rich Chierico, 1453 E Norman Dr, Palatine, IL 60074

**Questions?**

**Call: Rich Chierico 847-358-7816**

**Or e-mail: Reinhard Taylor (irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net)**