



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

November 5, 2014

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2 (T) – Holiday Luncheon
February 4, 2015 (W) - Paramount Theatre

Holiday Luncheon

Make your plans now to attend the Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the Inverness Golf Club. Take this opportunity to celebrate the upcoming holiday season with your fellow Unit 90 members. The Barrington High School Madrigal Singers will perform! See the flyer for more specific details! See you there!



The 2014 TRAIL Open Enrollment Period will be held October 15th through November 15th with coverage elections and changes effective January 1, 2015

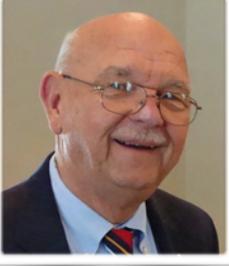
Members of the following group insurance programs must be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B in order to be eligible for the Total Retiree Advantage Illinois (TRAIL) Program. In addition, any covered dependent must also be enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B in order to be eligible for TRAIL coverage. If either the member or any dependent on the member's insurance through the State is not enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B, neither will be eligible for TRAIL Medicare Advantage plans. Members and dependents of non-Medicare households must seek benefits under the non-Medicare programs offered by the State, which are described on the Benefits website at www.benefitschoice.il.gov.

2015 Paramount Theatre

Unit 90 is offering a trip to the Paramount Theatre in Aurora to see Tommy on Wednesday, February 4, 2015. See the flyer for details!



TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board



Some time in the last month, membership in the Illinois Retired Teachers' Association passed 36,000 members. These were not only newly retired teachers, many were previously retired who were reached by a retired friend and urged to join to help protect our benefits. As you know, the IRT joined with other public employees associations and teacher unions to sue the State of Illinois on the constitutionality of their attempt to reduce the guaranteed annual 3% increase of our pensions. A growing number of retired educators have come to realize that joining our ranks and contributing to our organization's

Legal Fund is literally an investment in their own future. The IRTA has already raised over \$411,000 from our members and already we have spent \$295,000 on lawyer fees. The reality is we have really spent twice that since we joined with the Illinois Association of School Administrators to split our costs. Obviously we picked the best law firm that we could find with a noted expertise in Illinois Constitutional law and to get the best, you have to pay for the best. With multiple organizations there are multiple law firms, and since they all have to talk to each before and after every legal step is taken, there is an additional expense.

Fortunately the Constitution is on our side and the Illinois District judge that is hearing the case has given every indication that he will rule in our favor before the end of the year. Of course, that will not be the end of the matter and the loser will apply directly to the Illinois Supreme Court. This is taken from the IRTA website:

The State of Illinois Supreme Court ruled on the case regarding State Retiree Health Insurance, Kanerva vs. Weems, was UNCONSTITUTIONAL. • IRTA applauds the Illinois Supreme Court's ruling in Kanerva v. Weems. The Illinois Supreme Court has adopted a broad interpretation of the Pension Protection Clause that fully supports the interpretation advanced in our case Heaton v. Quinn. • The Illinois Supreme Court has held yet again that, under the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution, pension benefits shall not be diminished or impaired. This is entirely consistent with Illinois Supreme Court precedent dating back several decades. We believe that the Illinois Supreme Court's consistent enforcement of the Pension Protection Clause merits serious attention from our political leaders. • In Kanerva, the Court reaffirmed that "it is clear that if something qualifies as a benefit of the enforceable contractual relationship resulting from membership in one of the State's pension or retirement systems, it cannot be diminished or impaired."

You can do two things to help us help you. Recruit another member to our local and state organization. Our state campaign, **One Brings One**, could double our membership before the end of the year. The other action is to contribute to our Legal Fund if you have not already done so. It has been suggested that we give the value of one month's COLA in 2014 to the Legal Defense Fund. This money is in a dedicated fund and cannot be used for any other purpose. Can you afford not to do this?

Here is the address for sending donations to the IRTA Legal Defense Fund.

IRTA
620 North Walnut Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Checks should be made payable to the: **IRTA Legal Defense Fund**. Or, you can go to:

<http://www.irtaonline.org/Events.aspx#legaldefense>

to donate online. **Thank you!**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is an ongoing need for tutors in a variety of programs. HandsOnSuburbanChicago (HOSC) manages an after school program at four area middle schools:

Cooper Middle School (Buffalo Grove): Monday/Wednesday, 3:30-4:30pm
London Middle School (Wheeling): Monday/Wednesday, 3:30-5:30pm
Holmes Middle School (Wheeling): Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-5:15pm
Grove Jr. High (Elk Grove): Tuesday/Thursday, 3:10-4:45pm

HOSC also works with elementary schools where additional help is welcomed during the regular school hours. Volunteers consult with the classroom teacher to find the best day of the week and time for tutoring. The following schools are currently in need of volunteers:

Euclid Elementary School – Mt. Prospect
North Elementary School, Des Plaines
Plainfield Elementary School – Des Plaines
Sunny Hill Elementary School – Carpentersville
Timber Ridge Elementary School – Arlington Heights
Walt Whitman Elementary School – Wheeling

For any of the above, register online at www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org.

To volunteer in District 15 or District 25, contact the individual school of interest.

District 54 enthusiastically welcomes volunteers. To indicate your interest, go to www.sd54.org and, on the right hand side under “Getting Involved”, click on the “Senior Volunteer Program”. You’ll find more information and an application form. Or you can call 847-357-5035 to speak with someone.

PROTECT OUR PENSION

On September 18, 2014 IRTA Northwest Suburban Unit 90, sponsored a Day at the Races at Arlington Park to support the IRTA Legal Defense Fund. Our goal was to sell 150 tickets plus donations to raise \$10,000. From different parts of Illinois, 173 tickets were sold and \$11,000 was raised for the Legal Defense Fund. We want to “**THANK**” the people who attended the event, as well as, all the people who made donations.

To hire one of the highly regarded law firms in the State, to represent retired educators and defend retired educators’ benefits in the courts, is expensive. IRTA needs our help to maintain the Legal Defense Fund. Over \$400,000 has been raised and almost \$300,000 expended. Please send a donation, in any amount to:

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620 North Walnut Street
Springfield, IL 62702

Checks should be made payable to the: **IRTA Legal Defense Fund**. Or, you can go to:

<http://www.irtaonline.org/Events.aspx#legaldefense>

to donate online. **Thank you!**

One-Bring-One

We need to grow to strengthen our organization. Surely everyone knows a retired teacher who is not a member of IRTA. If every member would recruit one non-member we'd be 40,000 strong! We're in a fight to keep our pensions. Legislators understand numbers, especially numbers that vote. Contact irta@irtaonline.org or call 800-728-4782.

Membership Offer

Any state IRTA member who is 90 years of age or older is eligible for free state membership. To receive your free membership send me your birthdate and I'll register you. Bobby Reinhardt, 964 Burgess Cir, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 or email me at burgesscir@earthlink.net

Unit 90 WEBSITE: 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.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2014

OFFICERS:

President: Robert Kaplan (kaplanbob55@gmail.com)

Vice President: Liz White

Secretary: Richard O'Brien/Linda Wallin

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 Holiday LUNCHEON

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 (\$25 each)

Inverness Golf Club

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067 (corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads)

(847) 358-2340 Valet Parking Available

Dress Code: Shirts with collars, no jeans, cargo pants



Social Hour 11:00

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00



Holiday Program

Barrington High School

MADRIGAL SINGERS

Menu Choice of one:

Skirt Steak Bourguignon: served with button mushrooms, pearl onions, burgundy wine sauce; served over buttered noodles

Grilled Chicken: with rosemary pappardelle pancetta, goat cheese, grilled beets and roasted garlic au jus

Tilapia Provençale: with green beans and rice pilaf

Each entrée served with:

Butternut Squash Bisque, coffee or tea

Dessert: **Chocolate Soufflé Cake**

Reservation Deadline for members & their guests: Wednesday, November 26, 2014

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

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

Name: _____

Skirt Steak Bourguignon _____ Grilled Chicken _____ Tilapia Provençale _____

Email: _____

Guest Name: _____

Skirt Steak Bourguignon _____ Grilled Chicken _____ Tilapia Provençale _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (\$25.00 each) Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90





The Who's Tommy debuted on Broadway in 1993, *The New York Times* exclaimed, "...at long last the authentic rock musical that has eluded Broadway for two generations...an Entertainment Juggernaut."

Twenty-one years later, no other musical has come close to replicating the sheer power, electricity and impact of this rock opera.

Set in the 1940s, *Tommy* is the story of a little boy who witnesses his father murder his mother's lover upon his surprise return home after being released from a prisoner of war camp. The trauma sends Tommy into a nearly catatonic state, becoming deaf, dumb and blind. Eventually, his only form of communication becomes pinball and his wizardry with the flippers propels him into the national spotlight. *Tommy* is a story of hope, healing and human spirit that follows this child's journey from darkness to triumph. Based on The Who's 1969 album, this one-of-a-kind production is filled with soaring anthems and bursting ballads, mind-exploding images and pulsating dance numbers. Be a part of the greatest rock opera ever written. And bring the kids...maybe they'll get interested in your vinyl collection.

**IRTA - Unit 90 is offering a trip to the
Paramount Theatre in Aurora, IL to see *The Who's Tommy*
on Wednesday February 4, 2015 for a 1:30 pm matinee performance
for \$50 (Includes theater ticket and bus - Lunch on your own)**

All seats are on the main floor. One guest per member, unless space is available. Available lunch venues include numerous local eateries as well as restaurants in the Casino, which is located across the street from the Paramount Theater

**Departure from: Forest View Education Center at 10 am - return around 5 pm
North Parking Lot A 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004**

Return this reservation form with your check (made out to NW Suburban IRTA Unit 90) to:
Liz White, 5805 Prairie Lane; Palatine, Illinois 60067

Name (Print): _____ Phone or Cell: _____

Email address _____

Guest (Print): _____ Phone or Cell: _____

Email address _____

Please reserve _____ places at \$50.00 each for the **February 4, 2015** show and bus.

Enclose your check, made payable to: **Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

Reservation Deadline January 7, 2015



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

