



ILLINOIS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

August 5, 2015

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 2 (W) – New Retiree Breakfast

September 17 (Th) - Day at the Races

October 26 & 27 (M,T) - IRTA State Convention

December 4 (F) - Holiday Luncheon

A BIG THANK YOU TO UNIT 90 MEMBERS

On behalf of the Executive Board a gigantic thanks goes out to all of our members for their kind contributions to the IRTA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND. Almost three months ago, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled unanimously that Public Act 98-599, which passed in 2013 and cut public worker retirement benefits to reduce the state's unfunded pension liability is **unconstitutional!** Our unit contributed generously and led by Rich Chierico even fundraised through our annual day at the races to raise money for the defense of our pension rights. We must remain vigilant because elected leaders continue to discuss unconstitutional methods to "reform" our underfunded system. Your membership and contributions enable our organization to continue to protect your pension! **THANKS!**



WELCOME BREAKFAST: NEW RETIREES

The Executive Board of Unit 90 is hosting its Ninth Annual Buffet Breakfast for new retirees on September 2, 2015, 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 attached flyer or contact Liz White at 847-397-1678.

14th ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES

Make your plans now to attend the 14th Annual "A Day at the Races" at Arlington Park International Racetrack on Thursday, September 17, 2015. For more information, see the enclosed flyer. Note: Valet parking is available.

IRTA STATE CONVENTION

The 2015 IRTA State Convention will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL on October 26-27 2015. Unit 90 has been allotted 44 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 Bob Kaplan at 847-877-9350 or e-mail me at kaplanbob55@gmail.com by Friday, August 21, 2015.

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 Leonard Kortekaas as our Unit Honoree at the State Convention.

In 2000 Leonard Kortekaas retired from Township High School District 211, where he was Fremd's Mathematics chairman from 1971 - 1996. Leonard's many memories as an educator include his experience as an assistant sponsor of student council and his many years working with the math team.

On the local level, Leonard served faithfully as the Unit 90 Treasurer for six years and as President for six years. 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, Leonard Kortekaas is truly an outstanding representative of Unit 90 and IRTA.



TRS REPORT by Bob Lyons, Elected Annuitant, TRS Board

It is Not Our Fault



As I write this we are almost a full month into Fiscal Year 2016 and the state has no budget, it does have over \$4 billion in debt left over from the year before, and Republican Governor Bruce Rauner and the two Democrat legislative leaders are trading demands and accusations freely back and forth. It is a safe prediction that when you read this some time in early August that nothing will have changed. Both sides are made up of mature adults and certainly all of the parties believe in compromise, as long as it is the other side that is willing to give up. Neither side feels any real pressure to compromise. By law, Illinois bondholders, pensioners, state employees, school districts and court-ordered public health mandates are still being paid. Sad to say, both sides may be waiting for a real-life calamity to occur, so they can blame the other for their stubbornness. One category of state funds that is going unpaid is money to the many non-profits agencies that care for special needs children and adults.

Fifty some years ago Illinois state facilities that were little more than warehouses for the mentally ill and handicapped were closed in a push both to save money and to actually improve the care of those that were least able to help themselves. In many cases non-government entities dependent on a combination of public contributions and government grants took the place of the state agencies and hospitals. They are now the ones going unpaid by the state and they may be the source of the newspaper headlines and television announced tragedy. If and when that happens, you can expect that finger pointing will precede any real solution, and don't be surprised if some politician points at us.

“At us!!!” You exclaim. One set amount in the budget for 2016 is the \$6.7 billion that will go to the pensions for teachers, state universities and community colleges employees, state workers, legislators, and judges. The \$6.7 billion for this fiscal year comes to 20% of what Illinois takes in to their general revenue fund. Typically a state might pay 4% of their budget to pensions and 7% is the next highest contribution in the nation.

I may have been shocked, but I wasn't surprised when a state legislator told me, “You know your pension is coming from money we would have given crippled children!” When I got done shaking my head, I said that while he may hope that I would feel guilty enough to give the money back to the state, the reality was that it was not my fault, but his. I said, “I never voted to short the state's required pension payments, I never voted for a ‘pension holiday,’ I never voted for what the benefits would be, and I certainly never voted for a pension repayment plan with a ramp that has substantiality added to what the state owes the pension funds” No matter what the legislators may say, the Chicago Tribune may print, or what many other people may believe, the Illinois “budget problem” in general, and the “pension problem” specifically, is not the fault of the people receiving the benefits, nor of the pension system themselves. It is the fault of the Illinois state government for being so concerned with their immediate problems that they “saved” over \$30 billion by not putting the money into the pension systems. And now that \$30 billion they did not pay has grown to an unfunded debt they owe the systems of over \$111 billion and they find the necessary repayments too high to pay without considerable pain. It is their fault not ours.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Drivers are needed to deliver meals to home bound individuals. Delivery routes covering Evanston, Wilmette, Winnetka, Kenilworth, East Glenview and East Northfield will pick up meals from Evanston Hospital or St. Francis Hospital; volunteers are needed Mon. - Sat. The other deliveries would be in the Niles area with meals picked up Mon. - Fri. at Bethany Terrace in Morton Grove. Routes are designed to be covered in about 2 1/2 hours or less and you may volunteer to drive as little as once a month.

Looking for friendly and patient volunteers to drive area seniors to doctor and dental appointments. Volunteers must have excellent driving skills. Drivers are especially needed in Schaumburg, Des Plaines, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove and Wheeling. You will be scheduled according to your available time.

Volunteers are needed at local thrift shops to accept donations, sort, price and display items. Both the Schaumburg Thrift Store, benefitting abused and neglected children and WINGS are looking for volunteers.

For more information or to sign up for any of the above, go to www.handsonsuburbanchicago.org, email volunteer@volunteerinfo.net or phone 847-228-1320.

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, 2015 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 2015 electronic directory (pdf file) just e-mail your request to Reinhard Taylor at: irta-unit90rtaylor@comcast.net.

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN – UNIT EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2015

OFFICERS:

President: Robert Kaplan (bob.kaplan@comcast.net)

Vice President: Liz White

Secretary: 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: Rich Chierico

Volunteer Services: Carolyn White

Newsletter Coordinator: Leonard Kortekaas



Northwest Suburban Retired Teachers
Unit 90 of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association

Who: **NEWLY RETIRED TEACHERS!**

What: The local chapter of the Illinois Retired Teacher's Association, Unit 90 would like to invite you to come and enjoy not only a **FREE BUFFETT BREAKFAST**, but also have the chance to learn more about the only professional organization which solely serves retired teachers.

When: **Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 9:00 am**

Where: Arlington Heights Senior Center (corner of Central & Wilke Roads)
1801 Central Rd, Arlington Heights 60005 (847) 797-5341

Why: Because **IRTA** works on your behalf to make retirement work for you! Come to see and hear what we are working on.
Also meet and talk to TRS Board member, BOB LYONS

RSVP: Please send your response by **August 26, 2015** to:
Liz White, 5805 Prairie Ln, Palatine, Il 60067

QUESTIONS? Call Liz at (847) 397-1678

Be sure to visit our website at: www.irta-unit90.org
for additional information -or- call a former fellow district colleague.

Your Name: _____ District # _____

Email address: _____ I'd enjoy attending

Phone number _____ I'm unavailable Sept 2



Fourteenth Annual

Day at the Races



Retired teachers and their guests are invited to attend the

Fourteenth Annual Day at the Races

Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015

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
1:15	Post time	

The **cost of \$65 per person** includes complimentary general parking*, admission to the racecourse, the Daily Racing Guide, a lavish two-hour buffet in the International Room with Classic Beverage Package and wine, beer, soft drinks, juices and water.

Make the check payable to:
Northwest Suburban IRTA - Unit 90

Deadline is Tuesday, September 8, 2015

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