



Mark Boumstein's President's Notes



Hi Unit 90, Greetings to all,

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association's 70th anniversary biennial convention just concluded days ago and was well represented by Unit 90 members. Thank you to all who were able to attend and thank you to all who support Northwest Suburban Unit 90 and the state association.



Congratulations to Roger Hampton who was elected president of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association in a contested race, and a special shout out to Unit 90's Rainy Kaplan on her re-election as vice president.

Because of your support, Unit 90 was once again named as a Unit of Distinction at the convention. A Unit Honoree Award is presented at the Convention to someone who goes above and beyond in supporting our unit and state association. Our unit is proud to have named Reinhard Taylor who exemplifies the aforementioned core values.

Text scams are on the rise and while this affects everyone, scammers prey on the elderly. Examples are "Your UPS package is undeliverable at the address on the box, please click on the link below to confirm the address", or "This is your bank checking if you authorized a payment and to click on the link below to our fraud team", or "Pay for your EZPASS toll now to avoid late penalties or have your license suspended". Before acting in haste, try to verify by looking up the bank or company number.

Our Holiday Luncheon is being held on December 3rd at the Inverness Golf Club. Please see the flyer in this newsletter and reply as soon as you are able.

Best wishes on the upcoming holidays.

Mark Boumstein

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3, 2025	Holiday Luncheon (See page 6)
December 9, 2025	Wrapping Christmas presents at <i>Kids Above All</i> (see page 3)
February 18, 2026	<i>Feed My Starving Children</i> , Schaumburg, IL

Rich Chierico: Why Join the Illinois Retired Teachers Association



One word summarizes how the Illinois Retired Teachers Association (IRTA) treats retired teachers and administrators - **RESPECT**.

RESPECT - Since 1955, the IRTA has worked with other organizations to improve the quality of life for its members (over 39,300) in the passage of legislation.

RESPECT - For over 60 years, IRTA has upheld the stated purpose of the association, "to maintain and improve benefits to annuitants of the teacher retirement system; to promote education and the professional, social, and economic status of all members."

RESPECT - "No better example of fulfilling the IRTA purpose than the Illinois Supreme Court victory in the "Heaton" decision that upheld our position that pension benefits are guaranteed, and insurance is part of these benefit. We also must recognize the concerns of our colleagues and will remain supportive of their actions to preserve collective bargaining rights and other rights and benefits."

RESPECT - To learn more about the major legislative accomplishments that the IRTA actively supported from 1955-2025, go to our Unit 90 website: [Major Accomplishments](#).

RESPECT - To show Respect for what the Illinois Retired Teachers Association has done for all teachers and administrators, we encourage your membership.

Download your Unit 90 [Membership Form](#) here.

RESPECT - The *State of Illinois IRTA membership* which costs \$3.50 monthly deducted from your pension check, \$46 per year, or lifetime membership of \$600. [Sign up here](#).

RESPECT - You can donate to our IRTA political action committee and protect the status of retired educators by donating just \$1.00 per month through pension deduction [here](#).

RESPECT - You can also donate to the IRTAFoundation [here](#) which currently does the following:

1. Assists annuitants on a monthly basis
2. Teacher education scholarships
3. Provides Excellence in Education Grants to public school educators.



Rainy Kaplan and Bob Lyons' TRS Report



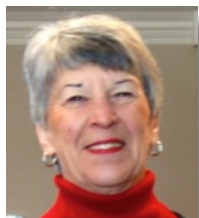
The TRS website has recently undergone some updates, including a multi-factor authentication system. If you have not visited the TRS website, please do so soon to set up your account properly. There are instructions on the homepage of the TRS website <https://www.trsil.org/myTRSIL>.



In this new school year, as always, please be careful to track your days/hours if you returned to the classroom to substitute or teach. There are stiff penalties for exceeding the limit of 600 hours/120 days.

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Carolyn White: Volunteers Are Always Needed...



Do you enjoy wrapping Christmas presents?

Join us at *Kids Above All*, (1801 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines) on Tues., Dec. 9 from 10:00 - 12:00. If you want to get in the Christmas spirit and love wrapping presents, this is for you. KAA has all the presents for each child in bags and you'll be wrapping, using supplies that are provided. We usually stop for lunch when we're finished. Please email me at whitecarolyn14@gmail.com if you are able to join us.



SAVE THE DATE: We're returning to Feed My Starving Children on Feb. 18 from 9:00 - 11:00. Many of you have joined us in the past. You can sign up now by emailing Carolyn White at whitecarolyn14@gmail.com. Or you can wait until the Feb. newsletter where there will be more information, again asking you to sign up.

Sept. 17, 2025 Feed My Starving Children (740 Wiley Farm Ct., Schaumburg, IL)



Sharing some things.. (you too can submit something or an idea...)



This is a recipe for a breakfast dish to serve a crowd.

It was popular with our Unit 90 Board Members when served for our New Retirees Breakfast.

I am sharing the recipe with you all. *Enjoy!*

BLUEBERRY FRENCH TOAST

12 slices day-old bread of French bread
2 (8 oz) cream cheese
1 c blueberries
12 eggs
2 c milk
1/3 c maple sugar or honey

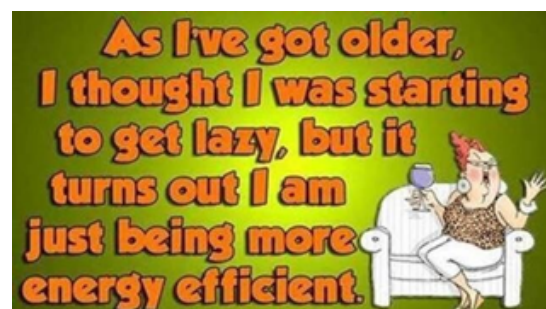
Sauce:

1 c sugar
2 T cornstarch
1 c water
1 T butter
1 c blueberries



Cut bread into cubes and put half into a 9 x 13" greased pan. Cut cream cheese into 1" cubes. Spread over bread. Top with blueberries and remaining bread. Beat eggs, milk & syrup. Pour over bread mixture. Cover & chill overnight. Remove from fridge 30 min. before baking. Cover with foil and bake at 350 degrees for 30 min. Uncover and bake 25 -30 min. more until golden brown & center is set.

In a saucepan, combine sugar, cornstarch and add water. Boil for 3 min., stirring constantly. Add blueberries, reduce heat, simmer for 8-10 min. or till berries have burst. Stir in butter till melted. Serve over French toast.



Diane Pfister: Foundation News



The IRTA Foundation's goal is to assist past, present and future teachers. This is accomplished by assisting retired educators with living expenses, providing scholarships to aspiring teachers, working to protect the rights of the elderly, and providing grants to educators.

Our unit supports the activities of the state IRTA Foundation by making a memorial donation when one of our members passes.

Please email us when you become aware of a death, so that we may honor that person's memory.

Janette Wanner's Membership Report



Unit 90 (Northwest Suburban) is one of the 87 Units of IRTA in Illinois.

We are in Area 2, Region 3.

Currently we have **539 members** in Unit 90,
468 of those are also members of the State IRTA.

We now also have a Unit 90 Life Membership available for \$100
(or for **free, if you're 90 or older**).

We currently have **253 Life members**.



Membership forms , for State and Local,
can be found on our webpage: [Click Here](#).



Unit 90 Members Who Recently Died



Berry, Bob

(May 21, 2025)



Grzegorek, Dorothy

(July. 3, 2025)



Larson, Lois

(May 24, 2025)



Gliwa, Joseph

(July 21, 2025)



Godman, Bill

(May 26, 2025)



Gabauer, George

(July. 29, 2025)



Martin, Jack

(June. 11, 2025)



Stephens, Michael

(Aug. 1, 2025)



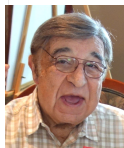
Breiding, Marilyn

(June 12, 2025)



Kalberg, Cynthia

(Aug. 1, 2025)



Patrizi, Gene

(June. 25, 2025)



Kortekaas, Len

(Sept. 1, 2025)



Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90

2025 Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday, December 3, 2025



\$45 each (no refunds) (Luncheon cost is subsidized by Unit 90)

At Inverness Golf Club for Unit 90 members and their guests

102 N. Roselle Road, Palatine, Illinois 60067 (corner of Roselle & Palatine Roads) (847) 358-2340

Valet Parking (\$3) and Handicapped Access is readily available at the front door.

Dress Code: Shirts with collars, no denim or cargo pants of any color

Social Hour 11:00

Luncheon 12:00

Program 1:00



Holiday Program:

**The District 54
Jazz Band**

Menu Choice of one:

Grilled Salmon Spinach Salad

Baby spinach, roasted red pepper, grape tomatoes
feta cheese with honey Dijon vinaigrette dressing

Pasta Alfredo with Chicken

Linguine pasta with bell peppers and spinach
capers and garlic; served

Beef Short Ribs

Slow braised short ribs in a rich demi-glaze
with whipped potatoes and asparagus

Dessert: Chocolate Explosion

with vanilla ice cream

Each entrée served with:

Hot rolls and butter and coffee or hot tea

Cash bar available

Reservation deadline for members & their guests: Must be received by November 25, 2025

RSVP to: Linda Wagner, 7306 Gleneagle Cir, Village of Lakewood, IL 60014-6715

Questions? Please call/text Linda Wagner at 847-207-2045 or email wagnerls21@yahoo.com

✂-----✂-----✂

Name: _____ Spinach _____ Pasta _____ Beef _____
Salad _____ Alfredo _____ Short Ribs _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Guest Name: _____ Spinach _____ Pasta _____ Beef _____
Salad _____ Alfredo _____ Short Ribs _____

Dietary concerns **must** be noted on here. They cannot be addressed on the day of the event.

Check enclosed for \$ _____ (**\$45 each**) **Checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

October 27-8, 2025 IRTA Biennial Convention



Eleven members of IRTA Unit 90 attended the 70th anniversary celebration at the IRTA Biennial Convention on Oct. 27 and 28.

In addition to many outstanding breakout sessions, a *Lunch and Learn* education presentation by Kane County Assessor Mark Armstrong was very informative. The Keynote speakers were Ellie Hamby and Sandy Hazelip, also known as the TikTok Nanas, who relived their *Around the World in 80 days at 81 years of Age*. The closing performance to the Convention was the Jesse White Tumblers.

In addition, the vendor fair was huge and included the Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. Members were encouraged to touch and interact with many different animals including a baby kangaroo, a snake, an alligator and an owl among others.

Unit 90 was once again honored as a Unit of Distinction for both 2023 and 2024. Reinhard Taylor was recognized as our Unit Honoree at the 70th Anniversary Banquet.

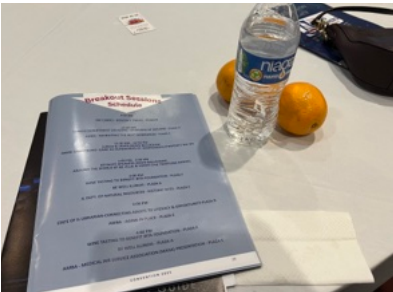
Election Results:

The following officers were elected in uncontested races: Rainy Kaplan, Vice-President; Sharon Teefey, Treasurer; LaVonne Chaney, Secretary and Area Representatives Donna Engel, Area 1, Kathleen Stoch, Area 3 and Jim Barr, Area 5.

1,073 ballots were cast for president and the Constitutional Amendments.

Roger Hampton was elected IRTA president with 525 votes. Donnie Ostrum received 479 votes.

All 10 constitutional amendments passed by a wide margin.



Rainy Kaplan and Bob Lyons' TRS Report

(Continued from Page 2)

The TRS Board of Trustees met on October 23-24, 2025 in Springfield.

Assets under Management as of September 30 - \$80.3 billion. This is up from \$76 billion reported in August. The Fiscal Year rate of return - 9.66% better than the assumed rate of return of 7%.

The funded ratio for the plan is 47.8% which is up 2% from last year. This is the fifth consecutive year of improvement in the funding status for TRS. The unfunded liability is \$83.1 billion.

The Supplemental Savings Plan (SSP) surpassed \$53 million in assets and has 10,398 participants, most of whom are Tier 2 members ages 20-29.

The Board had an educational presentation about Artificial Intelligence and enterprise (or business) software.

The Board reviewed the plan's global and fixed income strategies. The internal auditors presented their reports regarding the Board's responsibilities according to the Global Audit Standards as well as their findings in the three areas of internal auditing.

The Board continued its work of updating internal documents by adopting the Internal Audit Charter, as well as revisions to administrative rules, investment policy, and board policies.

Our actuarial consultant presented the preliminary valuation report for Fiscal Year 2025.

The Board certified the 2027 state funding amounts of \$6,594,062,236 for the statutory requirement as well as the actuarial amount of \$11,177,466,698. Also certified was the Teacher Health Insurance Security (THIS) Fund amount of \$141,801,757. The 2026 state contribution is \$6.5 billion, a portion of which has already been paid ahead of schedule.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be in Chicago on December 18 - 19, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Lyons and Rainy Kaplan



Oct 26-28, 2025 Unit 90 IRTA Convention Attendees:

Janice Calvey, Louise Finton, Karl-Heinz Gabbey, Rainy Kaplan, Bob Kaplan, Gerie Kay, Bob Lyons, Diane Pfister, Reinhard Taylor, Janette Wanner and Elizabeth White





Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90
12 Country Oaks Ln
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-9620

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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