



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

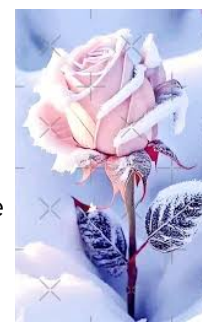
Diane Pfister's President's Notes



Dear Fellow Retirees,

It is with deep gratitude and genuine excitement that I step into the role of President of Unit 90.

For us, teaching was never just a job—it was a calling, a lifelong commitment to shaping minds and nurturing futures. Now, in this new chapter of our lives, we continue to share that same dedication, not in classrooms, but in the ways we support one another and advocate for the well-being of all retired educators.



The IRTA and Unit 90 have a proud history of service, advocacy, and fellowship. We have:

- * Protected retirement benefits through persistent legislative engagement.
- * Provided scholarships for aspiring teachers and grants to current educators, ensuring our legacy continues.
- * Created spaces for connection through luncheons, social activities, and volunteer opportunities.

As I take on this role, I am appreciative of the leaders who came before me. Their vision and hard work have made Unit 90 one of the strongest in the state! My goal is to honor that legacy while also exploring new ways to meet the needs of today's retirees. We may be retired from the classroom, but we are never retired from making a difference!

Warm regards,

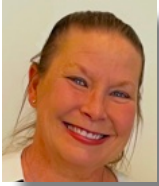
Diane Pfister

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 18, 2026	<i>Feed My Starving Children, Schaumburg, IL</i>
March 21, 2026	<i>Medieval Times, Schaumburg, IL</i>
May 27, 2026	<i>Kids Above All (10am-12)</i>
June 19, 2026	<i>Spring Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)</i>
July 12, 2026	<i>Schaumburg Boomers, Wintrust Field, Schaumburg, IL</i>
September 24, 2026	<i>Legislative Luncheon (to be announced)</i>
October 11, 2026	<i>Drury Lane (Buddy Holly Story)</i>



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.

The December TRS Board of Trustees met on December 18-19, 2025 in the Chicago offices, located on Wacker Drive. TRS utilizes these offices primarily for the investment staff.

The Board approved the final actuarial valuation performed by Segal, the System's actuary, to certify the 2027 state contribution of \$6,594,062,236 including \$200,000 for minimum retirement benefits. Also certified was the amount the state should pay as the actuarial amount to the system of \$11,177,466,698 including \$200,000 for minimum retirement benefits. The State has already made several payments ahead of schedule to TRS.

As of October 31, 2025, TRS has \$80.8 billion of Assets under Management.

Trustees welcomed a new governor-appointed Trustee, Jim Hagerman, from Springfield, to the Board. Trustee Hagerman brings a wealth of knowledge and public service to the position. One vacancy still remains on the Board.

At this meeting, the Board reviewed and approved the Fiscal Year 2026 Diversifying Strategies tactical plan. This portfolio has a 6% target allocation based on 3 core pillars: to improve liquidity, lower fees and provide risk management protection and capital preservation during a downside market. This asset class is currently at 5.2% of the total fund which is approximately \$4.2 billion. This portfolio has outperformed our benchmark by 1% in the last year.

If you received a TRS benefit in 2025, you should have received an IRS Form 1099-R via USPS from the Office of the Comptroller by Jan. 31, 2026. This form will report your income received from TRS during 2025. If you do not receive a 1099-R form by Feb. 16, 2026 or you need a duplicate copy sent to you, please log in to your MyTRSIL member account.

TRS pays your monthly benefit in arrears. The check issued Jan. 1, 2026 is your payment for the month of December 2025. Annual increases, certain insurance premiums and federal tax withholding changes will be reflected on the check issued Feb. 1, 2026, which is your monthly annuity for January 2026.

The compounded 3% annual increase is first effective on Jan. 1 following either your first retirement anniversary or your 61st birthday, whichever is later. TRS only sends a notification letter before your first annual increase occurs. You may log in to your [MyTRSIL member account](#) to view your monthly and annual earnings statements.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be on February 26 - 27, 2026 in Naperville.

Carolyn White: Volunteers Are Always Needed...



IRTA Unit 90 is returning to *Feed My Starving Children* (FMSC) on Wednesday, Feb. 18 from 9:00 - 11:00 for our annual winter visit. FMSC is located at 740 Wiley Farm Court.

There are a variety of jobs ranging from quite active to seated. Most of us will be standing around large steel tables measuring out the ingredients for a complete nutritious meal and putting them into a bag that someone holds under a funnel. The bags are then weighed and sealed to be placed in shipping boxes. More active volunteers are in the warehouse, transporting boxes of nutrients to resupply the packing tables. The seated jobs involve placing labels on the bags in preparation for them being filled. There's a job to suit everyone and great camaraderie. In the past, some of us have gone out for a late breakfast/early lunch when we finish at 11:00. Lunch decisions can be made that day since we can't make reservations at any of the nearby restaurants. To sign up to join us on Feb. 18, send an email to Carolyn White at whitecarolyn14@gmail.com. I'll confirm your email and then send more information closer to the date.

Save the date - We will be returning to *Kids Above All* on May 27 from 10 - 12 to assemble baby bundles. There will be more information in the May newsletter.

Dec. 9, 2025 Kids Above All (1801 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL)



KIDS ABOVE ALL

Scholarship Grant for Kelly Salvador and Amira Shabana



On December 19, Unit 90 presented a check to **Kelly Salvador** at Sunny Hill School.



On January 7, Unit 90 presented a check to **Amira Shabana** at Barrington Middle School.Station Campus.

Linda Wallin - Facebook Coordinator



Are you on Facebook? We are! We hope you are "liking" our posts. The scholarships for 2026 are out, and you can link to them if you know someone who is a college student in education or a teacher who wants to improve their instruction. You can also find out what the State Board of Education is up to. For those who like cartoons, we have those, too.



[Join us! Click here!](#)

Louise Finton: 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 **541 members** in Unit 90,
470 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 **255 Life members**.

The state IRTA association is the organization that:

- Protects your pension
- Monitors every piece of legislation that affects retirees
- Fights harmful proposals in Springfield
- Provides legal advocacy when benefits are threatened
- Ensures retired educators have a strong, respected statewide voice

Join Today

**Your local unit keeps you connected.
Your state IRTA keeps you protected.
We're strongest when we work together.**

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

Many retirees proudly belong to their local IRTA unit—
and that connection is important. Local units provide
community, fellowship, and support close to home.

But being a member of your local unit does not
mean you are a member of the statewide IRTA
association, and this distinction does matter.



Unit 90 Members Who Recently Died



Patterson, Eric (Dec 7, 2025)



Kaczmarek, Alice (Oct. 26, 2025)



Benes, Ron (Nov 28, 2025)



Elliott, Jack (Oct 1, 2025)



Gibson, Howard (Nov 22, 2025)



Kortekaas, Len (Sept. 1, 2025)

Sharing with our Neighbor: North Lake Shore RTA

North Lake Shore RTA Luncheon Meeting

**North Lake Shore Retired Teachers Association is holding its next Luncheon on
Thursday, February 19, 2026 at Hackney's on Lake, Glenview
(1514 E. Lake - Lake east of Waukegan Rd.)**

Speaker Andrew Bodewes, IRTA Legislative Consultant will be updating us on all the latest RE: retiree issues/legislation. Donations to IRTA-PAC (because...Primaries! {Election Day March 17th})-✓ to IRTA-PAC or cash. Thank you! (Our AMBA Representative should also be there & can answer ALL your benefit ??/set up a Benefits Review w/you.)

**Please come at 11:15 AM to sign in & pay (remember, Hackney's requires that we pay at the door--you MUST ✓ in & pay!) The cost is \$33 (incl. tax/gratuity)-if you're paying cash, please bring EXACT amount. If you'd rather write a ✓, it's \$33 payable to NLSRTA (we'll write a ✓ to Hackney's after).
THANK YOU!!**

11:30/11:45 AM -Order/Socialize/Bar 12 PM- Lunch

12:45/1:00 PM - Presentation/Q&A (should end 1:45/2:00 PM)

Please register with/RSVP to Jeanne Parker ON or before TUESDAY, 2/17(4 PM) humteach@comcast.net or (847) 570-3318. (She would PREFER email so we have your address {& send phone #} in case of inclement weather cancellation.) ALSO--cc to- Chaya chrubenstein36@gmail.com **AND** Paul paulrojas@att.net

Thank you and if you have further questions/concerns, please feel free to contact me at chrubenstein36@gmail.com. (847)877-6678 (Phone IDs as family business, but it's me!)

Chaya Rubenstein, Co-President NLSRTA, Paul Rojas, Co-President NLSRTA

Scholarships Available at irtaonline.org

Click on Foundation in the drop-down menu and then on scholarships.

 IRTA AREA Scholarships One \$2,000 scholarship is available in each of the six IRTA Areas across the state for college students enrolled in a certified teacher training program, as well as high school seniors who plan to pursue a degree in education.	 Moler-Austin Scholarships Two \$4,500 scholarships are available to Kendall County high school graduates entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year of college with a declared major in Education.	 Helen Kennedy Scholarship \$2,000 scholarship for Illinois high school graduates entering their sophomore, junior, or senior year of college with a declared major in Education.	 Rose Sandstrom Scholarship \$2,000 scholarship for an incoming senior at either Western Illinois University or Monmouth College with a declared major in Physical Education.
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State IRTA Elections

Unit 90 Elections 2026-27

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Roger Hampton - 525 votes

Don Ostrom - 479 Votes

UNCONTESTED RACES

Rainy Kaplan - Vice President

Sharon Teehey - Treasurer

LaVonne Chaney - Secretary

Donna Engel - Area 1 Rep

Kathleen Stoch - Area 3 Rep

Jim Barr - Area 5 Rep

Waiting to see
how long it
takes this police
sketch artist to
realize I'm
describing him.

The most terrifying
moment in life is when
the toilet refuses to
flush at someone else's
house



(Clockwise)

Pfister, Diane (President)

Kay, Gerie (Secretary)

Calvey, Janice (Vice President)

Taylor, Reinhard (Treasurer)

Roger Hampton was elected as the next President of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. A long-time member and dedicated advocate for retired educators, Roger has served IRTA in numerous leadership roles at both the local and state levels. His experience, vision, and passion for protecting the interests of Illinois' retired teachers will guide the Association into its next chapter. Roger's term as President begins on January 1, 2026, and he will serve a two-year term. We look forward to his leadership and the continued advancement of IRTA's mission under his direction.

Several positions in this year's IRTA election were uncontested, reflecting the continued dedication and stability within the Association's leadership team. The roles of Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, as well as Area Representatives for Areas 1, 3, and 5, were each filled by candidates running unopposed. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to these individuals for their ongoing commitment to serving Illinois' retired educators and for their willingness to take on these important responsibilities in support of IRTA's mission.



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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