



IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90

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

Diane Pfister's President's Notes



Dear Fellow retirees,

Every August, teachers everywhere start twitching. It's not a medical condition – it's the annual realization that summer is over and the stampede of students is coming.

I remember the August stress well:

- The staff meeting where snooze-worthy new policies and procedures were discussed.
- The hope that you wouldn't humiliate yourself while trying to learn the new technology.
- The frantic scavenger hunt for the supplies you ordered ages ago in a moment of wishful thinking.

But now? I'm retired. August is my personal victory lap. While my former colleagues are wrestling with classroom management, I'm wrestling with whether to have pancakes or waffles for breakfast.

I still get the occasional "back-to-school" dream – you know, the one where you're teaching in your pajamas and the principal walks in – but I wake up, realize I'm free, and roll over for another hour of sleep.

August used to be my nemesis. Now it's my very good friend.

Warm regards, *Diane Pfister*

P.S. And the best part about being a retired teacher? No stressing over whether a student's essay was written by AI – unlike this very newsletter piece, which I happily crafted with its help!



Everyone is welcome to attend our next Board Meetings at 10:00 am
Wednesday, September 2, 2026
at the Arlington Heights Senior Citizen Center
1801 W. Central Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005

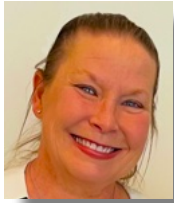
UPCOMING
EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|----------------|---|
| Sept. 16, 2026 | Feed My Starving Children 9-11 am, Schaumburg, IL |
| Sept. 24, 2026 | Legislative Luncheon 11:30 am, Moretti's, Hoffman Estates |
| Dec. 3, 2026 | Holiday Luncheon, Moretti's, Hoffman Estates |



Rainy Kaplan TRS Report



The annual TRS Board of Trustees met on June 11-12 at the Northern Illinois, Naperville Campus.

As of April 30, 2026 the Plan has assets under management of \$84.67 billion. TRS is the 35th largest pension system in the United States. TRS serves 462,000 members. The State of Illinois has made its 2026 statutory contributions of \$6.495 billion in full.

Preliminary numbers for the 2026 fiscal year show approximately 6% rate of return on investments, however June's preliminary numbers are very promising at 11% rate of return, with some of the portfolios coming in at up to 24%. Through March 31, the TRS plan earned \$4.8 billion in investment income.

The monthly payroll to annuitants is approximately \$738 million to the 135,000 retirees. Pension payroll for 2026 is approximately \$9.1 billion.

Investment commitments were made within each of the portfolios:

\$13.5 billion in Private Equity

\$31.9 billion in Public Equity

\$13.4 billion in Real Estate

\$21.5 billion in Income



Four appointed Trustees were recognized for their service as they leave the Board. Board President, Matt Hunt, Maureen Mena, Mia Jazo-Harris and Kader Sakkaria all brought unique experiences and thoughtful leadership to TRS and we thank them for their service.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be July 30-31 in Springfield.



In other news

The TRS website is undergoing a modernization and update. New features for retirees include increased visibility to monthly benefit details as well as the date and amount of the next COLA. Visit www.trsil.org. Please make sure that you have visited the website and set up your account. Over 80% of retirees have not yet visited the new website in the past year. Please feel free to contact TRS if you need assistance with accessing your portal.

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.

Carolyn White: Volunteers Are Always Needed...



IRTA Unit 90 is returning to *Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)* on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 9:00 - 11:00. 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 Sep. 16, send an email to Carolyn White at whitecarolyn14@gmail.com. I'll confirm your email and then send more information closer to the date.

June 25, 2026 Kids Above All (1801 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL)

KIDS ^{ABOVE} **ALL**



More on Page 4

July 15, 2026 *Kids Above All* (1801 E. Oakton St., Des Plaines, IL)



VOLUNTEER in the *Read to Learn Program* as a one-on-one tutor for adults seeking to improve their ability to communicate in English. Lesson plans are provided by a site supervisor with focus on reading, writing and speaking English. The program is largely funded by the IL State Library and training is required for new tutors. For more information on sites, times and dates and to register for mandatory tutor training, which will take place on Sat., Aug. 22 from 8:30 - 12:00, go to <https://www.ce.d214.org/readtolearn>

Janette Wanner's Membership Report



Membership forms , for State and Local, can be found on our webpage:

[Click Here.](#)

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

We are in Area 2

Currently we have

520 members in Unit 90

457 of those are also members of the State IRTA.

We also have a Unit 90

Life Membership available for \$100

(or for **free**, if you're 90 or older).

We currently have **260 Life members.**



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.

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

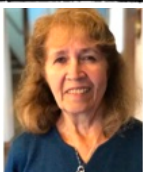
Your local unit keeps you connected.

Your state IRTA keeps you protected.

We're strongest when we work together.



Unit 90 Members Who Recently Died



Wilcox, Cheri

(Feb 21, 2026)



Ward, Herb

(May 1, 2026)



Rundquist, Ken

(March 7, 2026)



Swift, Jim

(May 5, 2026)



Mueller, Bud

(April 30, 2026)



Lyons, Bob

(May 7 2026)

June 19, 2026 June Luncheon (Inverness Golf Club)



For more pictures:
[Click Here](#)



Linda Wallin - Facebook Coordinator



Are you on Facebook? We are! We hope you are "liking" our posts.

Want to keep up with your school district? Follow IRTA-Unit 90 on Facebook. We try to keep it light with some jokes as well.,



[*Join us! Click here!*](#)

July 12, 2026 Boomers Baseball (Schaumburg, IL)



More pictures:
[Click Here](#)



"The BUDDY HOLLY Story"

September 30, 2026

guest arrival 11:15 a.m.	plated lunch 11:30 a.m.	show begins 1:30 p.m.
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★ ★ ★

\$95

per person

Deadline: Sept 3

Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane
Oakbrook Terrace, IL

BUY NOW

Contact Brooke Serbousek if you have any questions!
217-523-8488 · bserbousek@irtaonline.org

Register here





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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