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Illinois RETIRED TEACHERS Association
Northwest Suburban Cook - Unit 90
www.irta-unit90.org

IRTA-UNIT 90

Northwest Suburban - Unit 90 https://www.irta-unit90.org

Diane Pfister's President's Notes





Dear Fellow retirees,

As the leaves finish their colorful show here in Palatine and we settle into sweater weather, it feels like the perfect moment to pause, breathe, and enjoy the rhythm of the season. Halloween may have just wrapped up, but the next few weeks bring a whole parade of meaningful holidays—each one offering its own chance to connect, reflect, and celebrate.

🇺🇸 Veterans Day – November 11

A heartfelt salute to all who served. Many of you spent years teaching students about civic duty, history, and service—lessons that matter deeply this time of year. If you're attending a local ceremony or simply taking a quiet moment at home, I hope the day brings pride and gratitude.

🦃 Thanksgiving – November 26

Whether your table is full or your celebration is small and simple, Thanksgiving is a reminder of the joy found in everyday moments, and I want to echo that here: thank you for the decades you spent shaping young minds, building community, and making classrooms feel like home!

🕎 Hanukkah – Begins at Sundown December 4

Wishing light, warmth, and joy to everyone celebrating. This season is a wonderful time to share traditions— as Jeffrey Hoffman did aboard the space shuttle Endeavor in 1993. His televised broadcast celebrated Hanukkah from space!

🎄 Christmas – December 25

From tree-trimming to cookie-baking to cozy movie nights, Christmas brings a special kind of cheer. May your holiday be peaceful, bright, and filled with people (and pets!) you love.

🖤❤️💚 Kwanzaa – Begins December 26

To those who celebrate, may the principles of culture, heritage, and unity bring meaning to the week.

🎉 New Year's Day – January 1

Here's to fresh starts, new hobbies, and the joy of having time to explore them. Whether you're traveling, volunteering, or simply enjoying quieter days, I hope 2027 brings good health and good moments.
I hope to see you at our holiday luncheon on December 3!

Warm regards,

Diane Pfister

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dec. 3, 2026	Holiday Luncheon	11:00 am	Moretti's, Hoffman Estates
Dec 14, 2026	Kids Above All	10-12 pm	1801 E. Oakton St., DesPlaines
Jan. 20, 2027	Wings Warehouse	10-12. pm	1200 Carnegie St., Rolling Meadows)

Rainy Kaplan TRS Report



The TRS Board of Trustees met October 21-22 via a hybrid meeting from both Chicago and Springfield.

The Board received the final numbers for fiscal year as of June 30, 2026: Assets under management $86.8 billion (FY 2025: $77.3 billion); Funding level 49.5% (FY 2025 47.8%); Rate of return: 7.94%; Accrued liability for the plan: $163.7 billion; and TRS had $6.84 billion in new commitments.

Since the August meeting, two appointees have resigned from the Board. The Governor has appointed one replacement, Jim Hayes, for a 4-year position. One 2-year position remains vacant. Three active seats and one annuitant seat will be up for election in May of 2027. The petition period will begin November 2 and run through February, 2027. Petitions are electronic and will be available on the TRSIL website. IRTA will communicate how to sign the petition for their recommended candidate.

The State made all of its 2026 statutory payments to the System. The Board certified the 2028 State contribution: The statutory amount is $6.76 billion (an increase of 2.5% over 2027) and an actuarial amount of $11.7 billion, both amounts include a $200,000 for benefits). The state is obligated to pay the statutory amount leaving a $4.94 billion shortfall. The Board also certified the amount of $153,923,503 for the THIS program.

Retired membership growth for TRS has been at a consistent 1.3% rate for the past five years. The average annual benefit for retirees is $64,266. Active membership increased to 174,098 members. Based on demographic assumptions, Tier 2 members will outnumber Tier 1 (full time) members in approximately three years.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be in Naperville on December 17-18.

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 Mon., Dec. 14 from 10:00 - 12:00. If you want to get in the Christmas spirit and love wrapping presents, we'd love to have you join us. 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 a twhitecarolyn14@gmail.com if you are able to join us. I need to let KAA know how many of us to expect.**

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR US: WINGS Warehouse

We're going to the WINGS warehouse (1200 Carnegie St., Rolling Meadows) on Wed., Jan. 20 from 10:00 to 12:00. All clothing donated to WINGS is sent to the warehouse to be sorted by volunteers (people like us!). Some is prepared to go on the racks at the WINGS resale shops. The rest is packaged to go to another agency; ultimately all donations are used in some way. If you're able to join us on Jan. 20, **please email me at whitecarolyn14@gmail.com. I need to let WINGS know how many of us will be volunteering.** You will hear from me again in January with more information, particularly directions. It's a very confusing location and volunteer entrance. Of course, we'll plan to go someplace to eat after we're finished.

CHiL is an afterschool program serving elementary and middle school students in Wheeling Township's Community Consolidated School District 21. Volunteers serve as mentors – fostering socialization, facilitating social-emotional learning activities, and providing homework help to students in need. The program takes place Monday – Thursday 3:00–4:45 pm, and volunteer mentors are asked to commit to one day each week through the school year. Programming starts end of October and runs through the beginning of May. Application: ***Download Form***

(More on Page 7)

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.

September 16, 2026 *Feed My Starving Children* (740 Wiley Farm Ct, Schaumburg, IL)

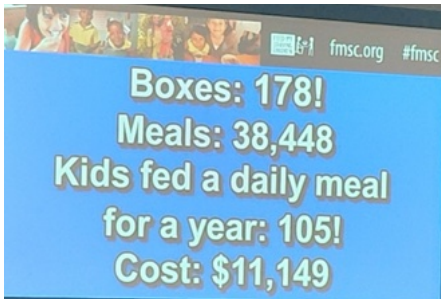














September 24, 2026 *Legislative Lunch Buffet* (Hoffman Estates Moretti's)













For more pictures on our website
https://www.irta-unit90.org/
Click Here





Therapist: Your wife says you never buy her flowers is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

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
521 members in Unit 90



455 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 **259** Life members.

PS. You'll get a notification if your membership expires on Dec 2026.

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



Alexander, Mel (Aug 15, 2026)



Ward, Herb (May 1, 2026)



Spengler, Ken (July 16, 2026)



Swift, Jim (May 5, 2026)



Mueller, Bud (April 30, 2026)



Lyons, Bob (May 7 2026)

Illinois Retired Teachers Association Unit 90

2026 Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, December 3, 2026

$47 each (no refunds) (Cost of meals is subsidized by Unit 90)

at Moretti's Hoffman Estates

2475 W Higgins Rd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

In the separate rear/adjacent building

Social Hour	11:00
Luncheon	12:00
Program	1:00



Holiday Program:

Buffalo Grove HS Holiday Singers

Buffet Menu Choices:

Bruschetta

Toasted Raviolis

Garden Salad with House Vinaigrette

Mashed Potatoes

Chef's Fresh Vegetables Medley

Rosemary Lemon Chicken

Lasagna

Dessert: Lemon Sorbet

Unlimited Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Reservation deadline for members & their guests: Must be received by November 25, 2026

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 wagnerLS7306@gmail.com

✂----------✂----------✂

Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Guest Name: _____

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

Check enclosed for $ _____ **($47 each)** **Checks payable to Northwest Suburban IRTA Unit 90**

Linda Wallin - Facebook Coordinator



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

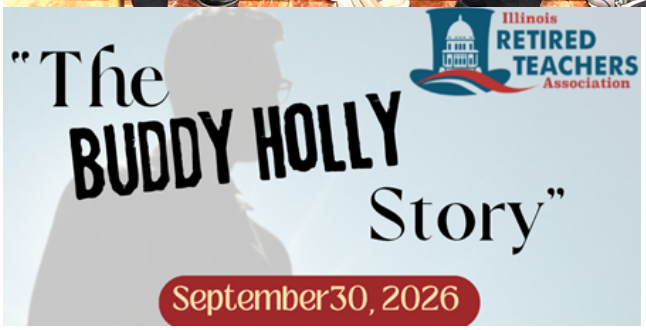
Want to keep up with your school district? Follow IRTA-Unit 90 on Facebook. We try to keep it light with some jokes as well.

Join us! Click here!

Buddy Holly Story - Sept. 30, 2026 - Drury Lane Theatre











Carolyn White: Volunteers Are Always Needed... (continued)

Lunch Buddies serves students at Jane Addams Elementary School in Palatine where volunteers read and play math games with small groups of elementary students during their lunch hour to bolster numeracy skills and promote a love of reading. The program will take place Monday – Thursday during the lunch hour, between 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and volunteers are asked to commit to one hour each week during the school year.Programming starts end of October and runs through the beginning of May. **Download Application Form**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

https://www.irta-unit90.org