
The Jogger

GENERAL MEETING, FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2013
ELGIN COUNTRY CLUB, 2575 WELD ROAD, ELGIN, IL 60124; Phone: (847) 741-1716
11:30 a.m. – SOCIAL HOUR (cash bar available); 12:00 noon – Luncheon

MENU

LUNCHEON – CHICKEN FLORENTINE OVER ORZO PASTA

Whitehall Salad – Bibb Lettuce with Hearts of Palm, Artichoke Hearts, White Asparagus, and Tomato Wedge with Modena Vinaigrette; Warm Assorted Rolls; Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea and Lemonade; Dessert will consist of Vanilla Ice Cream with Bananas Foster Bites.

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH, 2013.

Please make **check(s) payable to EARTA for \$22.00 per person (includes meal, tax and gratuity), and send to Barb McGee, 12728 Williams Road, Genoa, IL 60135. If necessary, you may reach Barb at (815) 784-5186.** See you on the 19th of April! **It is very important to get your reservation(s) and check(s) to Barb McGee just as soon as possible.**

Thank you very much!

APRIL PROGRAM

At our April 19th program, I am sure you will enjoy listening to **Carol Rice** tell us about **antiques**. Carol has been in this field for 15 years and has taken a number of courses. English china and porcelain are her specialty. Carol has traveled to learn more and collects articles while she travels. She will bring some pieces with her to our luncheon, and will take time at the conclusion of her presentation to answer questions from the audience. Shelly Singer, Program Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT FROM REGION 5 DIRECTOR

March 18th is the date set for the annual Area II Conference. This will be held at Randall Oaks Golf Club in Dundee. Marti Swanson, AREA 2 Representative, has once again put together a very interesting conference with many high profile speakers. Sessions will touch on the future and fate of our pensions. There will be networking opportunities for members during lunch. On hand will be Senator Michael Noland, 22nd Senatorial District; Bob Pinkerton, Vice President, IRTA; Jim Bachman, Executive Director, IRTA; Richard Ingram, Executive Director, TRS; Bob Lyons, Annuitant Trustee, TRS; and Reinhard Taylor, who will be navigating the Updated IRTA Website. Members of EARTA are looking forward to the event.

Our area has been selected to be on the nominating committee for the upcoming IRTA fall convention. I was chosen to serve. I look forward to the convention and serving on the nominating committee.

Submitted by Marilyn Foster, Region 5 Director

PREZ SEZ

I can see all the legislators sitting together at an evening meal, trying to think of ways to come up with new bills to present the next day. They seem to have a need to continue the attempt to create tentative futures for those still teaching, to cause possible future problems for school districts, and to create stress among those of us who are already retired. They threaten to take away our COLA, freeze the COLA for more years than many of us have yet to live, or to “bring in bull dozers and just raze our homes.” Well, of course, I’m being ridiculous with that last comment, but I’m more than mad!!! As many of you know, my husband, Gene, and I are deeply involved in music, so I’ve been thinking about this legislative “mess” in terms of names of songs. Forgetting the true meaning of lyrics of the following songs, just “Let Me Count the Ways,” in which THEY are trying to take our Constitutional rights from us. “Just Give Me a Reason,” why they apparently think it’s okay to do so. I will “Forevermore” wonder if THEY can sleep at night, knowing what they are proposing for all of us retirees. However, perhaps there will some day be a “Revelation Song” that pops into their heads, making them understand that they should not lead us into a court battle, incurring further state debt, but will finally lead us all into “A Little Piece of Heaven,” by doing right for all of us. I’m guessing they WILL lead us right into court, but we’ll be saying to the legislators, as our Constitutional rights are upheld, “Who’s Sorry Now?”

EARTA Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association / IRTA Mar/Apr 2013

Serving Retired Teachers of Districts 300, 301, 303, and U-46

MINUTES OF THE FEB. 15 GENERAL MEETING

EARTA Luncheon & General Meeting on February 15, 2013, at Elgin Holiday Inn
11:30 am – Social 12:00 pm – Lunch

Sandra Woolcott, President, welcomed the group at 12:00. Sandra introduced Marti Swanson our Area II Rep. Lunch was served following the invocation by Mick Williams. **Call to Order:** Sandra called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm and welcomed a guest, Mary Vance.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary – Irene Wedemeyer. The minutes, as printed in the Jogger, were accepted

Treasurer – Jean Jederman. The Treasurer's report, as printed in the Jogger, was accepted.

Checking Account Balance as of February 1: \$3439.67 Savings Account Balance as of February 1: \$12, 861.13.

Committee Reports:

Corresponding Secretary – Kay Lincicome. A reminder was given to send Kay names of any members who may be in need of a card (illnesses, hospitalizations, etc.).

Social/Charity – Coral Reinert. Coral reported that EARTA has donated \$300 to the IRTA Foundation (for scholarships) and \$200 to the Elgin Food Bank.

25 members met at Hooper's for our Supper Club and to help with the 2013 EARTA Directory. The Supper Club will meet on March 11 at Hooper's at 5:30 pm: all are welcome to attend. Our next tour will be on April 21. We will be attending a production of "Annie Get Your Gun" at the Fireside in Fort Atkinson, WI. Coral needs your \$89 by March 21.

Community Participation/Blood Drive – Cindy Lange. Cindy reported that we are helping at a blood drive at Larkin High on Thursday, March 14. She will get info to members about our 2 April blood drives.

Legislation – Cliff Olson. Cliff passed out a printed report (report on file). Cliff reported about the continuing concerns regarding our pension system. He also brought to our attention that it will take approx. \$400-500 thousand to mount a legal battle regarding the constitutionality of any "reforms" the state may try to impose. Cliff encouraged all members to donate to the legal defense fund. As always, he urged members to stay alert and be ready for action whenever needed. Member David Wedemeyer encouraged members to continue to contact their legislators. Emails are good, a call is better, and other than a face-to-face, a letter is most effective.

Membership – David Brown. Dave thanked all those members who helped prepare the Directory. There are new rules regarding how the Directory (and the Jogger) has to be sealed and those seals were not working well. Dave is working on this problem.

Nominations – Adrienne Berna. No report.

Old Business/Discussion: None.

New Business. Marti Swanson, IRTA Area II Representative, reminded us that the problem with our pension fund being under/un funded has been around since 1939! Marti also

reported that our Area II Spring Conference would take place on March 18 at the Randall Oaks Golf Club. The cost is \$15 (\$ to Jean Jederman) and all are welcome.

Sandra thanked June Preucil for her work on the EARTA website. The Jogger took as long as 21 days to get to some of our members through the US mail (!) but June had the Jogger on the website before it was even printed! Be sure to check the website (and the Directory) for dates and places of all our General Meetings.

The next General Membership Meeting & Luncheon is April 19 at the Elgin Country Club (11:30-social, 12:00-lunch, 1:00-program).

Adjournment: Seeing no other business, Sandra adjourned the meeting at 1:08 pm.

Program We all had a wonderful time listening to the Mood Makers barbershop quartet.

Their program was not only a delight for our musical souls but we all learned a lot.

Irene Wedemeyer
Secretary

BLOOD DRIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2013

St. Edward's High School

Friday, April 29, 2013

Larkin High School

2 shifts of 2 volunteers needed: 8:30-11am and 11am – 1:30pm on both dates

Volunteers hand out water and snack to donors before donating Contact Cindy Lange at clange50@sbcglobal.net if you are able to participate or watch for an email about it. No email, please call 847-695-1822 to volunteer for a shift.

CHARITY INFORMATION: The Charity Committee met and chose two organizations to receive a contribution.

1. The IRTA Foundation to receive \$300 for their scholarship fund.
2. The new food pantry, Food for Greater Elgin, to receive \$200 to purchase food for the underprivileged. Letters of appreciation have already been received from both charities.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

SUPPER CLUB

We met on Monday, March 11th, at Hooper's Bar and Grill at 5:30 p.m. Everyone enjoyed catching up on the news and is looking forward to the IRTA meeting at Randall Oaks Golf Club on March 18th to hear the latest reports regarding our pensions. Our next Supper Club will meet on Monday, April 8th, at Hooper's at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring guests.

TOUR REPORT

On Sunday, April 21st, 2013, we will go to the Fireside Dinner Theatre to see Annie Get Your Gun. It tells the tale of Annie Oakley, the world's greatest sharpshooter and her hilarious journey to find fortune, fame and true love. Richard Rodgers, Oscar Hammerstein and Irving Berlin came together to create this original musical comedy. Watch as the group performs classics like "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better", "I've Got the Sun in the Morning and the Moon at Night", and "There's No Business like Show Business".

New Tour:

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Transportation, tickets to the show, and a fabulous dinner will all be included. Please call by MARCH 15th to make your reservations as Coral will need to cancel any extra tickets. We will meet at Country Inn Suites (side of Jimmy's Charhouse) 2270 Point Blvd, Elgin, IL, at 12:15 p.m., with coach leaving at 12:30 p.m. (Remember there is a \$2.00 per car parking fee at the Suites.) and return about 8:45 p.m. The total cost will be \$89.00. Please remit your check made out to the EARTA and mail to Coral Reinert, 801 N. McLean Blvd., Unit 254, Elgin, IL, 60123, by MARCH 21st.

Senator Michael Noland (D-22nd District)

164 Division St. Suite 412 (847) 214-8864
Elgin, IL 60120 FAX (847) 214-886
307 B Capitol Bld. (217) 782-7746
Springfield, IL 62706 (217) 782-2115 FAX
e-mail: www.senatornoland.com

Senator Karen McConnaughay (R-33rd District)

81 McLean Blvd. (847) 214-8245
South Elgin, IL 60177
303A Stratton Building (217) 782-1977
Springfield, IL 62706
e-mail: KarenMcConnaughay33@gmail.com

Please continue to let Kay Lincicome (Corresponding Secretary), Page 31, know when there is an illness or death among our membership. Also let Jean Jederman or David Brown know about deaths.

PLEASE continue to check the websites for EARTA, IRTA and TRS, for future information about legislation concerning our pensions, COLA, insurance, etc. When opportunity knocks, do use Voter Voice and keep in touch with your legislators, and let them know how you feel about all that's going on in Springfield these days. Call them, send an email, or ask to have at least ten minutes of their time. Go with a small group. They will listen, so talk to them. If you think legislators are truly supporting the retired teachers, please thank them for doing so. They are constantly hearing the negative, so hearing positive comments will perk up their ears and be refreshing to them. They will remember you and your comments!

2013 DIRECTORY

You can't miss it! It is bright orange and was picked up at the February luncheon or was mailed to you on February 19th. If any changes need to be made or you find an error, let's do an up-date and make the corrections(s). Please contact David Brown (p. 11), at db9370@sbcglobal.net or by phone (847) 697-6391. Thank you!

**THE JOGGER / EARTA
P.O. Box 5515
Elgin, Illinois 60121**

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DATED MATERIAL

08 March 2013: Legislative Report for EARTA Board Meeting

Governor Quinn still wishes pension “reform” would occur. Speaker Madigan on the other hand wishes to have a deal that involves a casino for Chicago, some “fairness” in pension payback of the normal costs of pension by the school district (note: Chicago pays for their own.) AND he also wishes to reduce the cost of health insurance for the State of Illinois ... ie., trade the reduced COLA for health insurance. The speaker can say: I’ve done everything in my power to shift costs. He likes to play the political game all the way through. Thus, we are entering into a protracted court battle. Our recent legal opinion states, in effect, retirees are “safe” from the legislation 18 to 20 bills, out there. Madigan will say: Let the courts decide – I tried – the courts have done it.

For the court battle, we need a sizable legal defense fund. The goal is \$10.00 per member. With 34,000 IRTA members, we could reach the goal of \$340,000.00. So far, we have \$100,000.00 ... that’s about \$3.00 per member. There will be a Legal Defense Fund table at the Convention.

You can be proud of your Association. We are in the forefront of retiree rights. We are obtaining the legal opinions. The Senate views many House bills as unconstitutional.

A bit of good news is that the Governor’s budget includes approximately \$6 Billion in payments to TRS.

You can “watch” a live legislation session, go to ILGA.GOV ... watch the leg.house and click on audio/video. About 5,000 bills in a session are “fetcher” bills ... these are written to obtain a contribution. The Legislative Reference Bureau actually writes the bills and they must have a number to be introduced. Everything has a deadline, but the 3rd reading deadline can be extended. When the “deals” are done legislation can move very rapidly. They can “set up” several shell bills at once and change one word as “place holders” and within a half hour when things move, it’s all accomplished before there is time for much response. The pensionable salary amendment of \$113,000 passed March 7, 2013; two other amendments failed.

Regardless of the rumors you have heard, TRIP is paying within 60 days. The TRIP HMO is paying within 30 days.

There are 18,500 members using Voter Voice. If you change your email, you have to call it in. If you open it, remember to SEND it!!!

IRTA PAC approved giving \$1,000 to Sheila Simon for her campaign.

Two resolutions from IRTAPAC were sent to the Executive Committee for consideration at the Convention:

1. Enable endorsement of non-incumbents
2. Enable endorsement for office of Governor

Be alert and check the EARTA, IRTA and TRS websites for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Olson

EARTA Legislative Chair

IRTA Legislative Committee (Region 5)