

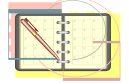
EARTA

Elgin Area Retired Teachers Association / IRTA

May / June 2016

www.earta.org

The Jogger



Mark Your Calendar

General Meeting, Friday, June 17, 2016

Elgin Country Club

2575 Weld Rd., Elgin, IL 847-741-1716

11:30 A.M. - Social Time **12:00 noon** - Luncheon

MENU

West Coast Salad - Mixed greens, chopped dates, Feta cheese and pine nuts with vinaigrette dressing. Chicken Florentine - Chicken breast on a bed of Spinach and Orzo. Dessert - Chocolate truffle cookie with Gelato (Chef's choice of flavor). Warm assorted rolls, coffee, tea (hot and iced), lemonade. **Reservations are due by June 10, 2016.** Please make out checks to EARTA for \$ 24.00 per person (includes meal, tax and gratuity) and send to Barb McGee 12728 Williams Road Genoa, IL 60135. If it is necessary to contact Barb, her home phone number is 815-784-5186.

Hope to see you on the 17th of June.

MAY PROGRAM

Laura Goldman will sing a lovely selection of Broadway tunes. Our own Marilyn Foster will accompany Laura. If you love Broadway show tunes you will really enjoy this special event. Any questions or comments you can email me at shellysinger10@aol.com.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Thank you for your contributions to the Crisis at the April luncheon. They were very appreciative of the donations. If you are involved in a group or know of a particular need for a certain organization, please contact

me at clange50@sbcglobal or call me at 847-695-1822 to provide me with contact information. Cindy Lange

Starting with our June Luncheon, we try focusing on a different area of need at each luncheon.

We will be looking for donations of:

Plastic Bags: grocery, sandwich, quart and gallon zip lock

Paper Products: toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues

Cleaning Products: toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, He powder laundry detergent

Any of the other items listed in previous Joggers are always appreciated!

The Community Crisis Center is a non-profit social service agency providing services to individuals & families in Kane and NW Suburban Cook Counties who are dealing with economic crisis, domestic violence or sexual assault. Contact 847-742-4088 for more information or visit www.crisiscenter.org

**Treasurer's Report:
As of May 1, 2016
Checking: \$ 3376.51
Savings: \$8793.60**

MINUTES OF THE EARTA GENERAL MEETING April 15, 2016



EARTA LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING was held at the Elgin Country Club on April 15, 2016. Social hour was at 11:30 and the luncheon was at 12:00. President, David Wedemeyer, welcomed members, and recognized Dr. Neil Greenhill, a new member. He

introduced Meg Saferik, Region 5 representative and Barb Zillgitt, Aurora area retired teachers Association newsletter editor. The luncheon was served following the invocation given by Chaplain, Mick Williams.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President – David Wedemeyer called the business meeting to order. Judy Karnes presented an opportunity to volunteer at the Gail Borden Public Library as a docent for the SPACE program...Lunar Excursion. Contact David for more information. David addressed SCAM alerts from AARP. Be aware of fake IRS phone calls, "grandchildren in trouble" phone calls, "fix your computer" phone calls. Do not give out information. David handed out information about IRTA Political Action Committee. We were encouraged to sign the IRTAPAC Donation Form to deduct a donation from our monthly pension of \$1.00. This organization is the only group that represents retired teachers' pensions. Only the last 4 digits of your social security numbers are necessary.

Recording Secretary – Kay Lincicome The minutes of the February 19th General Meeting as printed in the *Jogger* were accepted without objection.

Treasurer - Jean Jederman reported that there is, as of April 1st, \$9893.60 in savings, and \$14.45 in checking. The report is on file for auditing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social/Charity – Coral Reinert reported about the play "Hamilton" on October 30th. Twenty people have signed up and need to pay by May 13th. There is a Wait List and Coral is going to try to get more tickets. Group Sales are closed but she will try for individual tickets. A group met at Hoopers for the Supper Club on April 11th. The next Supper Club at Hoopers will be on May 9th at 5:00. All are invited. The Epicurean Adventure met at Villa Verone in Geneva on April 13th. On May 17th, The Epicurean Adventure will meet at Cocina Bella in Algonquin. The June Epicurean Adventure will be announced later. All dinners are at 6:00 with individual checks. Please contact Karen Patterson or Irene Wedemeyer for information.

Legislation – Cliff Olson Cliff's report was presented as printed. Handouts were available at the tables and his report will be printed in the *Jogger* and is on file. Cliff reminded us "to stay up-to-date and be ready for a Call To Action as there is certain to be legislative information concerning our pension system. As always, check the EARTA, IRTA, and TRS websites."

Membership – David Brown reported to let him know if you are not getting the *Jogger* or have not received your Directory. Dave asked that we keep him up to date on new addresses, and phone numbers. He needs to know of any members who have passed away.

NEW BUSINESS

EARTA's next luncheon will be on June 17th at the Elgin Country Club.

ADJOURNMENT

David Wedemeyer adjourned the business meeting at 1:42.

PROGRAM

Program Chairperson – Shelly Singer introduced Constance Hughes and Nancy Magy-Sen. Both Constance and Nancy have post-graduate training in piano performance, reside in the area, and are "musically active" locally. They presented a duet piano program on one piano. At times, their hands would cross each other as they played. The program contained many types of music. As they played a series of different types of music, the audience was asked, at times, to "name that tune". Music by difference composers, Fleming, Bernstein, and Handel plus other composers, was enjoyed by all. The genre ranged from movies songs, classical songs, Broadway songs, and popular songs. It was a very enjoyable concert.



13 May 2016: Legislative Report for EARTA Board Meeting

"Politics" continues in Springfield without much governing or legislation. Illinois is on "autopilot" without a budget and payments are made based on court orders and lawsuits. As moral hazards are highlighted in demonstrations some emergency funding is authorized. Usually it is reduced by as much as 50% or more. Stopgap piece meal measures have been passed for higher education and to keep

schools open including IMSA –Illinois Math and Science Academy.

The budget impasse "deals" and rumors abound including 4 or 5 new casinos. Local funding (if over 6%) "spiking" for higher pensions amounts ... a state tax increase to 4.85% ... taxing higher retirement income ... taxing services, etc.

Most of the "rumors" to reduce the pension deficit would be unconstitutional, such as: "consideration", COLA tied to salary freezes, lump sum payments at a reduced amount. Retirees can already select a lump sum amount. A 401K type option or combination with a private account are not based on actuarial science and do not consider adverse selection. These selections might include health, chronic illness, disability, mental illness, revenge divorce, planned euthanasia, or suicide, etc. HB1334 eliminates double dips. It might be constitutional depending on the definition of retirement.

Another bill to watch is SB289 which includes the authority to skip pension payments. The pension holidays got us into this mess in the first place, but Rauner can claim that he offered a "constitutionally" balanced budget if pension payments are not included.

It is important to refute propaganda with some facts presented by Ralph Martire of the CTBA. "Compared to the rest of the nation, Illinois is a very low

spending and small government state. Illinois ranks 28th in General Funding on Services per capita and 36th in General Fund Spending on Services as a share of GDP. In 2011, Illinois ranked 49th in number of state workers per 1,000 residents. In 2014, Illinois ranked 5th nationally with a Gross State Product in excess of \$745 **B**illion. This is the 20th largest economy of any nation in the entire world. Illinois total state and local tax burden ranked in the bottom 10 of all states. Illinois has the second lowest tax burden in Midwest next to Missouri. The **dollar shortfall** in State per pupil K-12 Education Funding to meet the Adequate Education Standard by fiscal year: 2014 -- **\$2,553.00**; 2015 ---**\$2,747.00**; 2016 --- **\$2,946.00**. They have been starving education since 2003! Increasing taxes the right way does not hurt the economy. States with “High Rate” taxes are outperforming the others.” Please don’t believe or repeat the propaganda that states misrepresentation. These are the facts from CTBA.

Senators Noland and Holmes (two of our endorsed candidates) both voted for the new P-12 formula which passed the Senate. No increase in funding included in the bill.

Please consider making the IRTAPAC automatic monthly contribution of \$1.00. You CAN afford it. Political action is very important during this “dark” time. WE must support retiree’s views! We are

agents of democracy in the public arena for public education. We support the public good.

Respectfully,

Cliff Olson
Legislative Chair,
EARTA Legislative Cm, Area 2, Region 5



We wish to welcome our new retirees and new EARTA members. They are: Sandy Boscaljon, John Gypalo, Eleanor Howard, Cheryl Komlanc, Kathryn McKewen, Pamela Mosier, Lucille Niemeier, Linda Rose, Lillian Sorensen, Christine O'Malley, and Mary Wojtczak.



July 13, 2016 - Seasons 52, Schaumburg

August 18, 2016 - Ellwood Steak & Fish House, DeKalb

September 21, 2016 - Patten House, Geneva

Any questions, call Karen Patterson or Irene Wedemeyer



Condolences: Marjory McDonough (Pg. 36), Jacqueline Watson (Pg.52), William Shaw (Pg 47) have passed away.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please continue to let Susan Frederitzi (Corresponding Secretary), know when there is an illness or death among our membership. Also, let Jean Jederman or David Brown know about deaths.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

CHARITY INFORMATION: The Board approved several organizations to receive a charitable contribution. **The IRTA Foundation** will receive \$300 for their scholarship fund, **Food for Greater Elgin** \$250 to purchase food for the underprivileged, \$200 to the **ETA** for the U-46 scholarship fund, and an additional \$100 to our local foundation. The total contributions for 2016 will total \$850.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

Supper Club: We met on Monday, May 9th, at Hooper's Bar and Grill at 5:30 p.m. Our next Supper Club will meet on Monday, June 13th, at Hooper's at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and bring guests.

Tour: The tickets purchased for the play "Hamilton" are all sold for Sunday Matinee on October 30th.

I did try to order ten individual tickets as we have space on the coach, but they are not on sale at this time and they will only sell one/two at a time when they do go on sale. If you would like to try to purchase your own ticket and join us on the coach, the cost would be \$50. It would save you driving into Chicago and paying for parking, plus have a "tasty" dinner with friends. If interested, call Coral Reinert at 847-742-4330 to reserve your spot. If you

Epicurean Adventure: Time for meeting is 6:00 p.m.

May 17, 2016 - Cucina Bella, Algonquin

June 14, 2016 - Shakou, St. Charles

signed up for the waitlist, you're still on it, but it doesn't look good.