

The Jogger

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

September 16th General Meeting Elgin Country Club

Social Hour - Luncheon - Business & Information - Program

News from the Gavel: A synopsis and comment by Mick Williams

It's September! Can you believe it? (Again) Where did the Summer go?
School is in session and so is EARTA.
"How Great it is!"



I hope your summer was full of happy times with family and friends, enjoyable trips, outdoor activities or just rest and relaxation. Basically - - A 'Great' Summer.

In that same vain, in August I realized that my tenure as President of EARTA was really coming to an end. It has been a 'great' two years working with your Board of Directors and all of you. The other 'great' thing is that I have the next two years to continue working with the Board as the Immediate Past-President.

On page three you will find the new slate of officers whose terms will begin after the vote at the November luncheon. I want to thank Adrienne Berna and her Nominations Committee for their presentation of this combination of new and continuing officers.

"How g-r-r-reat..." Well, you get the idea. [No disrespect meant to a 'great' comedian.]

Please continue to check out all the information in this Jogger. Remember that the past Joggers are on the web site in abbreviated form with all the pertinent information still there at: www.earta.org.

"Not The Same Old Pension Assault"

You must be aware of the assault on our pensions and other public pensions. Please take this matter very seriously as **many** other states have or are considering roll backs of current pension benefits. Stay in contact through IRTA, TRS and EARTA publications and web sites: <http://trs.illinois.gov> - <http://irtaonline.org> - <http://earta.org/>.

Today is the best day to extend a personal invitation for your newly retired friends to attend the September luncheon. Bring them to experience and enjoy the fellowship and they may wish to join you and us regularly.

Supper Club: The "Group" met on Monday, August 8th, at Hooper's Bar and Grill for an evening of good food and companionship. The next get-together is scheduled for September 12th. All EARTA members and friends are invited. Mark your calendars and join us at 5:30 P.M. No reservation required. It's "DutchTreat" and FUN.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM:

*The program for September will be our own Marilyn Foster entertaining us
with An Afternoon of Melodies.*

You won't want to miss this memorable event.



September
Luncheon
Menu

Social hour will begin at 11:30 with a cash bar and good company. Luncheon will be served at 12:00.

Your menu will be:

Squash Soup

Roasted Vegetable Salad topped with a warm Chicken Breast and Modena Dressing

Entree includes Rolls & Butter - Coffee, Tea, Ice Tea.

Dessert:

Apple Crisp a la mode

Reservations are due by September 9th.

Send your checks for \$21.50 per person which includes tax and gratuity payable to EARTA to :

**Coral Reinert
Unit 254**

**801 N McLean Blvd. Elgin
Illinois 60123.**

Phone: 847-742-4330

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
June 17th GENERAL MEETING**

11:30 am – Social 12:00 pm – Lunch

At 12:00, Peggy Jurgensen, Auditing Chair, welcomed the group and recognized all new members in attendance.

Lunch was served following the invocation by Duly Dulabaum.

Call to Order: Peggy called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary – Irene Wedemeyer. There were no corrections to the minutes and they were accepted as printed in The Jogger. Irene reminded the group that many teaching certificates need to be renewed this summer by June 30. The process is easier than in past years and can be completed in person at the Geneva ROE Office or on-line.

Treasurer – Jean Jederman. Checking Account Balance: \$1455.70. Savings Account Balance: \$10,606.48.

Committee Reports:

Corresponding Secretary – Kay Lincicome. No report.

Social/Charity – Coral Reinert. Coral reminded us about the August 7 bus trip to Wrigley Field to see the Cubs beat Cincinnati. The package includes tickets to the game, snacks and the bus transportation---and all for \$89.

The Supper Club will meet on June 13. A great time was had by all. Our next Supper Club will be at Hooper's at 5:30 pm on July 11. All are welcome.

Community Participation/Blood Drive – Cindy Lange. No report.

Legislation – Cliff Olson. Cliff was absent but his written report was available for all. Peggy emphasized that, although it may not be obvious, any changes to TRS for active teachers, can potentially affect the system for annuitants. It is important for all of us to keep informed regarding any possible legislative changes to TRS so that we may give our opinions to legislators.

Membership – David Brown. No report.

Nominations – Adrienne Berna. No report.

Old Business/Discussion: Adrienne Berna read the highlights of a thank you/information letter to EARTA from her granddaughter Eileen Moeller. Letter on file.

New Business:

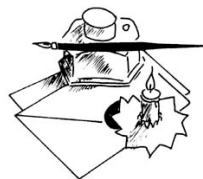
Peggy reminded members to be alert for information in the Voter Voice. Although the attack on pensions and retirees has been put on hold for a bit, it is definitely NOT over.

The next General Membership Meeting & Luncheon is on September 16 at the Elgin Country Club (11:30-social, 12:00-lunch, 1:00-program).

Adjournment: Seeing no other business, Peggy adjourned the meeting at 1:10 pm.

Program : Coral introduced “Bandjo” Jazzy Jeff, who entertained our group with toe-tapping music on his tenor banjo. His selections included selections from Bluegrass to Dixieland to Ragtime. There were even a few sing-a-longs included!

Irene Wedemeyer
Secretary



**Updates from the
EARTA Board 08/19/11**

Minutes of the May 20th Board meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report from Jean Jederman: The checking account balance as of August 1st was \$1052.86 and the savings balance was \$10,613.17. *****

******* EARTA Volunteers:**

Little Angels is a loving home for children and young adults with severe disabilities and complex medical needs in Elgin. It is a state-of-the art facility that offers round-the-clock nursing, therapeutic and habilitation services in a warm, caring environment; and provides highly specialized care to 57 children and young adults.

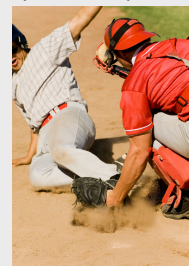
Little Angels has an extensive wish list. Below is only section of it. As your community participation coordinator, I encourage you to bring any of the items to the September EARTA luncheon on Friday, September 16. Any way you can help will be greatly appreciated. Examples include: Activity Supplies: Finger paint paper; Poster Board; (6) Slightly oversized bean bags for Baggo game; 8 1/2 X 11 Photo Paper; balloons; Fat Paint Brushes; Motion Lamps. Additional items can be found on the website: www.littleangels.org under News & Events; Support the Angels. Thanks, Cindy Lange

If you have put off or forgotten to renew your annual membership in EARTA, send your check for \$15.00 to Jean Jederman, 865 Wing St., Elgin, IL 60123. RENEW NOW

or bring your checks to the September luncheon.

See earta.org for life membership details.

Tour Report: Those who attended the Cubs vs. Cincinnati at Wrigley Field on August 7th, 2011, had a great time! They tried to cheer the home team to a win, but the Cubs lost by one! Maybe next time. (Yr.?)



2011 Directory For August

NEW MEMBERS / CORRECTIONS / CHANGES

RENEWALS TOO LATE TO GET IN DIRECTORY

Copy altered to protect member privacy.

NOTE: Please continue to let Kay Lincicome (Corresponding Secretary), Page 31, know when there is an illness or death among our membership.

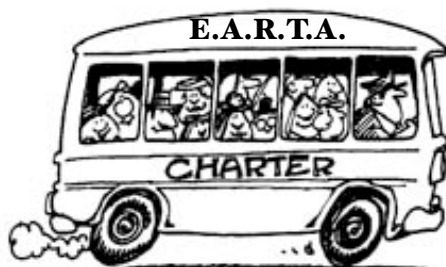
Condolences: It has come to our attention that long time EARTA members Doris Baldrige and Alice Bolger have passed away. No details are available.

August Bd. Notes (con.)

Nominations: Adrienne Berna reported that the following nominees will be announced at the September luncheon: For Corresponding Secretary - Kay Lincicome; For Treasurer - Jean Jederman; President - Sandra Woolcott. Voting will take place at the November luncheon.

Charity: Coral Reinert reported receiving thank you letters from The Gail Borden Library Youth Dept. and the IRTA Scholarship Foundation for the gifts from EARTA of \$200 & \$300 respectively.

IRTA Convention Delegates: Twelve of our fifteen voting delegate positions have been filled but any EARTA / IRTA member may attend as a non-voting delegate. The dates are Oct.17 & 18, 2011 in Springfield. For further information and forms (due immediately), contact Mick Williams (see directory p.52).



New Tour: 1. On November 9th, we will meet at the Country Inn Suites at 10:00 A.M. to go to Sycamore to see the Little Chapel in the Pines and have lunch and enjoy the show "White Christmas Fantasy" at the Theatre in the Pines.



On the way home, we'll stop at the Prairie State Winery in Genoa for a presentation and tasting. We'll arrive back in Elgin about 5:00 P.M. **The cost for this trip will be \$69.00.**



FOR TOUR RESERVATIONS:

Send check made out to EARTA and mail to:

Coral Reinert
Unit 254
801 N McLean Blvd. Elgin Illinois 60123.
or
Phone: 847-742-4330

New Tour: 2



On December 14th, we're off to Buca Di Deppo's Restaurant for dinner and then to the Ford/Oriental Theatre to see the Donny and Marie Osmond "Christmas Show". This show features your favorite holiday hits mixed with the Osmond irresistible chemistry that made them international stars. We will depart about 3:00 P.M. and return approximately at 11:30 P.M. **Great seats, deluxe motor coach transportation, dinner, and show is all inclusive at \$165.00.** (I only have 16 places reserved, so call ASAP)



THE JOGGER / EARTA
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Elgin, Illinois 60121

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DATED MATERIAL

19 August 2011: Legislative Report for EARTA Board Meeting

The General Assembly is on their summer adjournment. The “bigwigs” in Illinois financial circles are broadcasting that “ILLINOIS IS BROKE”, our pensions are unsustainable and we are responsible for Illinois’ low bond rating of A+ ... the “bottom of the barrel” with California among the 50 states. To make a long story short, everybody wants to reduce our pensions. New teachers would only get about 60% of what they put in. School boards would pay more thereby a chain reaction driving up real estate taxes. The TRS system would be starved for funds going elsewhere --- to 401K’s and the administrative costs would skyrocket. Tier III would no longer pay in to the TRS, but the bankers and civic club members get to sell 401K’s and line their own pockets. You would never guess they were salesmen for 401K’s ... ha, ha! ... alas, more opportunities for favored status, kickbacks, campaign contributions, and other forms of corruption. Which accounting firms are going to amortize the earnings of these thousands of accounts with different starting dates, switches, and “rollovers”? It seems like another disaster down the road ... worse than the health insurance mess! SB178 extends contracts for health insurance. The next action on SB 512 to restructure the pensions will be this fall. If it passes, it should be unconstitutional. It will be a battle! They will also try to come after our 3% raises ... that is also unconstitutional. Keep sending your emails. You may not get a response, but they know each email represents five voters and retired teachers VOTE! Use “Voter Voice” and respond to “Calls To Action” and encourage others to do so. As always, there is more information available from the EARTA, IRTA and TRS websites.

Respectfully submitted,
Cliff Olson,
EARTA Legislative Chair; IRTA Legislative Committee (Region 5)