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# The Jogger

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**GENERAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 2012, HOLIDAY INN**

11:30 A.M. SOCIAL HOUR (Cash bar in Bennigan's)

12:00 P.M. LUNCHEON - CHAMPAGNE CHICKEN

**MENU**

Tossed Garden Salad with Assorted Dressings, Boneless Breast of Chicken with a Mushroom & Champagne Cream Sauce, Green Beans, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Chef's Choice Dessert, Warm Dinner Rolls with Butter, Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Hot Tea, and Ice Tea.

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY: FEBRUARY 10, 2012

Make checks payable to EARTA for \$20.00 per person and send to  
Coral Reinert, 801 N. McLean Blvd. Unit 254 Elgin, Illinois 60123.

**Due to renovations, please park in the rear and use the Convention Center entrance.**

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

Come see and hear The Village Vocal Chords, 18 time and current international championship women's barbershop chorus, who will be entertaining us for the second time. Our new president, Sändra Woolcott, is a member of this group. We look forward to a very enjoyable afternoon.

**President's Message**

Stunned, overwhelmed, nervous, organized, ready to go – Those are the progressive feelings I have experienced since being approached about running for the position of President of EARTA. I so appreciate the wonderful show of trust and support I have received, not only from Immediate Past President, Mick Williams, but from the current Board members and many general members. It appears to be a daunting task, but with the great deal of time and effort put in by Mick, as well as help from Adrienne Berna and June Preucil, I am now comfortable and honored to hold this new position. I have been in some type of contact with all the Board members, and believe me, you should be very proud of all of them. They are fine and experienced leaders, each loving what they do for all of us in EARTA. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated and responsible Board. Thanks a million to all of them for welcoming me and helping me to prepare for the next two years as President. I will do my utmost to do my best for all of you in EARTA. Please know that I am very approachable and would like to get to know as many of you as is possible. I send my heartfelt wishes to you and yours for a year that we will share together, filled with great joy and abundance - Sändra Butz Woolcott, Retired Speech-Language Pathologist.

**Supper Club**

We met on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, at Hooper's Bar and Grill. Everyone enjoyed catching up on the news from over the holidays and are now looking forward to meeting again on February 13<sup>th</sup>. This time we will gather at about 4:00 p.m., instead of 5:30 p.m., as David Brown would like us to help prepare the new directories for mailing. If you haven't joined us before, please mark your calendar to attend and see what you've been missing!

## The Jogger Jan/Feb 2012

### **EARTA Luncheon & General Meeting**

November 18, 2011  
Randall Oaks Golf Club  
11:30 am – Social  
12:00 pm – Lunch

President Mick Williams welcomed the group at 11:54 a.m.. He introduced our Area 2 Representative, Marti Swanson. Mick encouraged all of us to visit both the EARTA website ([www.earta.org](http://www.earta.org)) and the IRTA website ([www.irta.org](http://www.irta.org)).

Dave Brown informed all that there were envelopes on the tables to use to pay dues for the 2012 year. He also reminded members that there will be an increase in dues starting in 2013 so, if you were thinking of joining as a life member, now is the time!

Lunch was served following the invocation by Duly Dulabaum.

**Call to Order:** Mick called the business meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **Officers' Reports:**

**Secretary** – Irene Wedemeyer. A motion to accept the September, 2011, General Meeting Minutes as printed in the Jogger was made by Adrienne Berna and seconded by Sandra Woolcott. Motioned passed.

**Treasurer** – Jean Jederman. . A motion to accept the Aug. 1 Treasurer's Report as printed in the Jogger was made by Sandra Woolcott and seconded by Coral Reinert. Motion passed.

Checking Account Balance as of Nov. 14: \$1382.03.  
Savings Account Balance as of Nov. 14: \$9694.86.

#### **Committee Reports:**

Mick introduced Nancy Cramer and Cheryl Setser from AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors). They distributed a handout highlighting many of the benefits available to EARTA members through their group including discounts on everything from cell phones to cancer diagnosis. Members could enter their name for a raffle. The drawing will take place later in the meeting.

**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. The Supper Club met on Nov. 14. They will meet again on Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Hooper's: all are welcome to attend.

The Nov. trip to the Sycamore/Genoa area was a great success. The Dec. dinner/show trip to hear Donny and Marie is much anticipated and still has a waiting list.

The winning names for the AMBA raffle were drawn. David Brown and Gwyn Snowwhite each received a McDonald's gift card.

**Community Participation/Blood Drive** – Cindy Lange. Cindy needs 1 more helper for the Dec. 2 Larkin

High School blood drive and 2 more for the Dec.14 St. Edward's High School Blood drive.

**Legislation** – Cliff Olson. Cliff passed out a printed report (report on file). Cliff congratulated all for their phenomenal efforts on lobbying against SB512. Be aware SB 512 or some mutant of the same will be back. All should on the look out. Don't give up: our phone calls/emails/letters do make a huge difference. No one out there will do it for us.

**Membership** – David Brown. Dave reported that we now have 450 members! Mick reminded us all to be sure to contact Dave with any new emails/addresses.

**IRTA Convention Report**-Marilyn Foster (our IRTA Region 5 Director) reported that, although we had a bit less business than usual, it was a very worthwhile convention. The members elected Gary Elman as President. Our own Jean Jederman was honored for her long years of service to EARTA/IRTA. And, the luncheon immediately following the convention at the Governor's Mansion was a wonderful way to end the time in Springfield.

Marti Swanson, our recently re-elected Area 2 Representative, encouraged all members to sign up for the \$1 per month IRTA-PAC deduction from their TRS Annuity check. And to be sure they have signed up for Voter Voice to be able to receive the most up to date info. regarding all the happenings in the State Legislature. The plan for IRTA-PAC is to choose 1 Democrat and 1 Republican who are friends to public school teachers and who are facing tough elections, and give them the bulk of our support.

**Nominations** – Adrienne Berna. Adrienne presented the slate of officers published in the last Jogger:

Sandra Woolcott—President

Jean Jederman—Treasurer

Kay Lincicome—Corresponding Secretary

Having no other nominations from the floor,

Adrienne asked for the nominations to be closed. Said motion was made by Adrienne Berna and seconded by Marilyn Foster. Adrienne then installed Kay and Sandra. Because Jean was absent, Adrienne will install her at a later date.

As her first official act, Sandra thanked Mick for all of his dedication and service to EARTA and gave him a small token of our appreciation for all he has done for the members.

Mick then addressed the members. He thanked all the Board members and encouraged all members to become involved.

**Old Business/Discussion:** None.

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The next General Membership Meeting & Luncheon is February 17, 2012 at the Elgin Holiday Inn (11:30 a.m -social, 12:00 p.m.-lunch, 1:00 p.m.-program).

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mick Williams and seconded by Peggy Jurgensen. Motion passed. Sandra adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m..

**Program** –Coral Reinert introduced Eileen Moeller. Eileen explained the goals of The Tanzanian Education Project (TEP) and her involvement and experiences working with the Tanzanian people/students at Fanaka Memorial Secondary School. After building 3 schools, the TEP is now focusing on new projects. One project, Hydrate to Educate, will furnish a sustainable clean water source for the 200+ students at Fanaka. This project involves creating a rainwater catch system capturing water that is clean enough to drink. Another project, Raising a Future, will be a self-sustaining project as well. This involves providing funding for a family to buy and raise chicks, which can then be sold, when they are fully grown, for a profit. Eileen also described starting a “stationery shop”. TEP provided money to rent a small structure to create a sort of mini-office supply store, the only one for quite some distance. The profits not only make it self-sustaining but also provide enough money to help out the school. TEP is now basically four exceedingly dedicated, energetic, young women. Eileen then took questions from members.

**Reminder:** The EARTA Pre-Retirement Reception is planned for April 26 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Hickory Stick in Elgin. Please, invite any friends and/or former colleagues who are about to retire.

Irene Wedemeyer, Secretary

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### New Tour

On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012, we will go to the Apollo Theatre to see the Chicago cast of the Tony award-winning “Million Dollar Quartet,” which features Sean Sullivan, Rosie Show staffer, playing the role of Johnny Cash. Watch as the group performs classics like Elvis Presley’s “Hound Dog”, Cash’s “I Walk the Line”, and many more. Transportation, tickets to the show, snacks, and a fabulous lunch will all be included. Please make your reservations early as I only booked for 20 people. We will depart about 10:00 a.m. from 799 McLean Blvd, behind the Provena Health Care building, and return about 6:30 p.m. The total cost will be \$98.00. Please remit your check made out to EARTA and mail to Coral Reinert, 801 N. McLean Blvd., Unit 254, Elgin, IL, 60123.

### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Community of Readers, For the love of books  
February 1, 2012 – February 29, 2012

Please donate new or gently read books for Pre-School and Grade School Age Children at First Community Bank, 165 S. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123 or 50 Tyler Creek Plaza (Big Timber and McLean Boulevard ) Elgin, IL 60123

Community of Readers is a business partnership between First Community Bank and School District U-46. For more information, please contact Karen DeBack at 847-622-8824, Ext. 1307

### BLOOD DRIVES

Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 St. Edward’s High School  
2 shifts of 2 volunteers needed: 8:30-11 a.m.  
and 11a.m. – 1:30pm

**And**

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012 Larkin High School  
2 shifts of 2 volunteers needed: 8:30-11:15am and  
11:15am – 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers hand out water and snack to donors before donating.

Contact [clange50@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clange50@sbcglobal.net) if you are able to participate or watch for an email about it.

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### Region 5 Director

After fulfilling two years as Regional Director, Marilyn Foster once again volunteered to be the Area 5 Regional Director Nominee. An Orientation for Regional Directors and Committee Chairs, to be held in Springfield, is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Marilyn will be attending, accompanied by Coral Reinert.

The Area II Conference will be held on March 19 at Randall Oaks Golf Club, 4101 Binney Road, West Dundee. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m.. Among others, IRTA Vice President Bob Pinkerton, TRS Annuitant Trustee Bob Lyons, and TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram will be speaking.

If planning to attend, please send your check in the amount of \$15, made out to EARTA, to Jean Jederman, 865 Wing St., Elgin, IL 60123

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

**Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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**DATED MATERIAL**

January 16, 2012

**Legislative Report**

Now, as a result of the Supreme Court ruling for Citizens United that a “corporation is a person,” the superpacs can “buy up” all of the media attention. What we have is word of mouth and our votes when it comes to Social Security, our pensions, and health care. Al Sharpton loves to state: “It is not about Obama, it is about yo’Mama.” But when it comes to “pay to play” in Illinois ... money talks!. Since we don’t have big money, our “voice” is rather tiny and often unheard. Any money IRTAPAC does have must be carefully targeted to our supporters that are being attacked by the superpacs on the “right.” The billionaire plutocrats will always outspend us so we must work to overturn the Citizens United decision. Our votes still count so we must be assertive politically and use our own “social media.”

Governor Quinn states: “Our rendezvous with pension reality will come this year.”

Andrew Bodewes, the TRS and IRTA paid lobbyist says the “group” negotiating is listening to the TRS actuaries. Governor Quinn indicates we need more actuarial science and less political science ... politics.

The Governor has not tipped his hand on the solutions or the constitutionality of the various solutions proposed. There are only so many options: more gambling, more time ... increase the funding time from 2045 to 2050; reduce the health care cost by increasing premiums, deductibles and incentives to encourage more pensioners to move to an HMO; more borrowing to take advantage of low interest rates; more funding by school boards and active teachers and reduced payouts from 75% for new hires. They may propose some “solutions” but that is politically difficult in an election year. Stay tuned and remember yo’ Mama! (ie., Retired teachers)

As always, there is more information available from the EARTA, IRTA and TRS websites.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Olson,  
EARTA Legislative Chair