

# The Jogger

Web Edition - Edited to Protect Member Privacy

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

## April 15th General Meeting Elgin Holiday Inn

Social Hour - Luncheon - Business &amp; Information - Program

**News from the Gavel:** A synopsis and comment by Mick Williams  
**"Is your Pension Disappearing?"**

WOW! That's a scary question! The answer is simple. **NO!!** Then what is going on in Springfield and why is the question even being asked? It appears that the fiscal mismanagement at all levels of the public and private sector has been directed away from those elected or appointed positions who were responsible for that mismanagement and placed squarely with all public employees nationwide. For decades in Illinois and other places, fiscal irresponsibility has been ignored. During those same decades public employees who were woefully undervalued and under compensated fought for and received a few of the benefits that were common in the private sector. In Illinois, the growing importance of education to the voting public resulted in Constitutional guarantees aimed at holding on to experienced teachers who often fled the state to find better paying jobs with health and retirement benefits like those in the private sector. Next came collective bargaining rights and contracts with teeth to prevent indentured servitude among school employees. Then came the decades of underfunding not only in pensions, which were raided from time to time, but underfunding schools by formula adjustments and unfunded mandates. Not to mention the deceit embodied in the "gambling for education" campaign that saw even more funds diverted from education when all lottery monies entered the State's general fund and disappeared into "general" spending. Now it is springtime in Illinois and the legislature has embarked on a campaign to make up for its mistakes at the expense of not only retirees, but the school children of Illinois. Read your newspaper, then check for the real story from IRTA and TRS. Check out Cliff's report on the back page of your Jogger, it will open your eyes. Disappearing? No! But Scary!

### "Pension Assault"

You must be aware of the assault on our pensions and other public pensions. Please take this matter very seriously as 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/>. \*\*\*\*\*

**"And now for something completely different!"**

**Supper Club:** Meeting on the second Monday each month at Hooper's Bar & Grill on No. McLean in Elgin at 5:30pm for dinner and conversation. We last met on March 14th and our small but friendly group looks forward to seeing many more of you at our next evening on April 11th. No reservation required. It's "Dutch Treat" and FUN.

**April Program:** Come listen to Richard Frankenfeld, TRS Director of Outreach, presenting information about our retirement system. He will have the right information at the right time, now!

**You don't want to miss this informative meeting.**



April  
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 choices will be:**

- 1) Boneless Chicken Breast sauteed with Pearl Onions & Mushrooms in wine sauce - Parsley Baby Red Potatoes - Steamed Fresh Vegetables - House Salad & Ranch Dressing [OR]
- 2) Coconut Encrusted Tilapia with Mango and Papaya over Rice Pilaf - Steamed Vegetables - House Salad & Ranch Dressing ....

**Both Entrees include Rolls & Butter - Coffee, Tea, Ice Tea. Dessert: Chocolate Sundae**

**Reservations & Choice of Entree are due by April 8th.**

**Send your checks for \$19.50 per person which includes tax and gratuity payable to EARTA to :**

**Marilyn Hendry,**

See Your Member Directory for Contact Information

# MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEBRUARY 11th GENERAL MEETING

EARTA Luncheon & General Meeting

February 11, 2011

11:30 a.m. Elgin Country Club

**Call to Order** was given by Mick at 12:00 noon

**Report** on web site (earta.org) by Mick

**Invocation** was given by Phyllis Thompson

**Lunch:** We were served a delicious soup, chicken Florentine with couscous, and homemade cherry pie and ice cream.

**Officers' Reports:**

**Secretary** – Irene Wedemeyer. Minutes were printed in the last Jogger. Cliff Olson moved to accept the minutes and Cindy Lange seconded the motion.

**Treasurer** – Jean Jederman. Checking account: \$2151.00. Savings' account: \$11,299.53.

**Committee Reports:**

**Corresponding Secretary** – Kay Lincicome. A reminder was given to send any names that would need a card (illnesses, deaths; etc.)

**Social/Charity** – Coral Reinert. Supper Club will meet at Hoopers on Monday (14th) at 5:30. Besides a social/dinner time, work will be done on compiling the rest of the EARTA directories. There will be a bus tour going to Drury Lane to see Aida (Elton John' version) on April 6th. Coral needs to know who is planning on going by March 3rd. Cost: \$69. Choice of dinner is Salmon or Turkey. The group will meet at the Country Inn Suites on Randall Road (behind Jimmy's Charhouse) at 10:00 a.m. and return about 5:00 p.m. Checks are to be mailed to Coral Reinert.

**Community Participation/Blood Drive** – Cindy Lange. A clipboard was passed around to have volunteers sign up to work at blood drives.

**Legislation** – Cliff Olson. Please see attached hand-outs that were given at the meeting along with Cliff's most informative report.

**Membership** – David Brown. He announced that members attending EARTA luncheon could pick up their membership directories. The other 375 directories will be put together at Hoopers on Monday, February 14th, at 4:00. This is a big job and volunteers are needed.

**Nominations** – Adrienne Berna. No report

**Old Business/Discussion:**

Mick reported about the Jogger and why it was delayed. Along with the blizzard, some bulk mail is held until it is easier to deliver; etc. Our reservation at Holiday Inn for February's EARTA meeting was mistakenly reserved by Holiday Inn for March, so Marilyn Henry was able to reserve the Country Club for February 11th, a week before we usually have our general meeting. It was the only place and time that she was able to obtain a meeting place. Therefore, many did not receive the Jogger in time for the new meeting time. Many thanks went to Bonnie Skapyak (Contact/telephone chair) and Cliff Olson (spokesperson) for getting out the message via phone service. It was suggested that the Jogger be printed on our Web Site. It was suggested by some not to forget about those who do not have internet and continue some kind of mailing. This is still being considered.

**New Business:**

Mick announced to be on alert for the Voter Voice. EARTA's new mailing address is: P.O. Box 5515, Elgin, IL 60121. IRTA Foundation Scholarship deadline will be March 7th, 2011. Forms will be available from our organization and irtaonline.org.

Our next EARTA Luncheon/meeting will be April 15th at Holiday Inn in Elgin.

**Adjournment:**

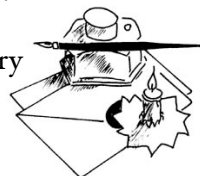
Marilyn Foster moved that we adjourn and Jane Alderson seconded the motion.

**Program** – Coral Reinert

EARTA's own "Dynamic Duo", Mary Ellen Kanies-Beckmann (vocalist) and Linda O'Connor (pianist) performed a music program called "Music from the Heart". Many familiar tunes were enjoyed by the audience along with a "sing-along" of "Heart" songs. The music (and costumes) was enjoyed by all.

Respectively submitted:

Kay Lincicome –  
Corresponding Secretary



## Updates from the EARTA Board 03/18/11

Minutes of the January 21st Board meeting were approved as corrected.

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Treasurer's Report from Jean Jederman: The checking account balance as of March 1st was \$411.59 and the savings balance was \$11,299.53. \*\*\*\*\*

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

Heartland has blood drives at the following high schools:

Larkin-3/11- need 2 people @ 8:30 - 11:15  
St Edward-4/26/11- need 2 people @  
8:30 - 11:00 and 1 person at 11:00 - 1:00

Volunteers contact Cindy Lange - See 2011 Directory p.29 \*\*\*\*\*

**Annual Pre-Retirement Reception**

at the Hickory Stick featuring Social Security Rep, Jim Bushman & TRS Rep., Steve Rollins. That will be April 28th, 4 to 6pm with hors d'oeuvres. All new retirees from our 4 districts are invited.

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**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**

See earta.org for life membership details.

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IRTA Regional 5 Director, Marilyn Foster and Coral Reinert will attend the IRTA Board of Directors meeting in Springfield April 26 & 27.-- IRTA Area II meeting at Randall Oaks March 28th State convention October 17 & 18. \*\*\*\*\*

**Latest Tour:** On April 6th, 2011, we go to Drury Lane Oakbrook for Lunch and Show. We will be seeing Elton John and Tim Rice's AIDA. It is not an opera. It's a pop musical with spoken dialogue and familiar song types: rhythm and blues, gospel inspired songs, ballads, and, of course, "Crocodile Rock songs". We will meet at the Country Inn Suites on Randall Road behind Jimmy's Charhouse at 10am and return about 5pm. Entree choices of Baked Salmon or Turkey Dinner to Coral ASAP, if not already in.  

See web site earta.org for more details.

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More Board meeting notes @ earta.org



**E.A.R.T.A. Board of Directors on February 11, 2011**

**Row 1** L to R: Marilyn Foster - IRTA Region 5 Director  
Kay Lincicome - Corresponding Secretary  
Jean Jederman - Treasurer  
Marilyn Hendry - Vice President & Nominations Chair  
Karen Patterson - Mailing Chair  
Bonnie Skapyak - Phone Contact Chair

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**An Invitation:**

**To all retired Streamwood High School Faculty,**

I am the Chairperson of a 9 person committee that is planning our 30th Class Reunion.

**We want to include the teachers who did so much for us.**

You are welcome to contact me if you would like to purchase tickets for the event.

I am at Info Blocked to Protect Privacy

**Vicki Bergeron-Downs**

Chairperson Class of '81 Reunion Committee

**Details:**

**What:** Streamwood High School Class of 1981's 30th Class Reunion

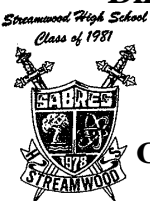
**Where:** Holiday Inn & Suites, on Airport Road off route 31 in Elgin, IL

**When:** Saturday July 30th, 2011

Cocktails start at 4:30

**Dinner:** 6:30...Banquet room is booked until midnight and the Bennigans restaurant is attached to the hotel and our party will continue in their restaurant/bar.

**Choice of:** Prime rib or Lemon Chicken.  
\$65 per person.



**Row 2** L to R:

Cliff Olson - Legislative Chair  
Adrienne Berna - Past President  
Cindy Lange - Community Participation/Blood Drives Chair  
David Brown- Membership Chair  
Coral Reinert - Social & Charity Chair  
Mick Williams - President  
Absent:  
Jane Alderson - Historian & Pre-Retirement Co-Chair  
Maureen DeDobbelaere - Information Services Chair  
Barb McGee - Pre-Retirement Co-Chair  
Peggy Jurgensen - IRTA Foundation Representative  
Irene Wedemeyer - Secretary

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In February, EARTA member Joseph Mungai and his wife Shirley demonstrated outside the Wisconsin state capital in a show of solidarity with the Wisconsin Teachers and other public employees.

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**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 EARTA member Shirley Lehman has passed away.

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Elgin, Illinois 60121

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**DATED MATERIAL**

**18 March 2011: Legislative Report EARTA Board Meeting**

So far we have legislative leaders who are willing to follow the constitutional mandate for our pensions. The same can't be said for funding with a reliable income source. From 1953-2010, the "state" has shorted our pension funds \$14.8 Billion.

The big picture is worse. Republican governors and legislators are reducing pensions, benefits, and collective bargaining rights. Some of these changes will end up in courts because of various legal jurisdictions and the U.S. Constitution which guarantees freedom of assembly and association.

In, Illinois, the legislature is discussing having the local school boards increase pay for what they call the "normal" costs of the pensions ... about \$700 million to \$750 million/per year. This would raise local property taxes and reduce the state annual payment.

It is very clear that teachers and others don't want retirement income taxed. Let your legislators know your opposition!!!

IRTA is opposed to taxing retirement income!! There are only five states that do not tax retirement income.

SB2279 extends the period (July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2021) during which an annuitant receiving retirement benefits may accept employment ... up to 120 paid days or 600 hours in a school year without impairing his or her retirement status. The bill was reported out of the Senate pension committee and is expected to pass.

Call Senator Durbin and ask him to co-sponsor the Social Security Protection Act of 3011 (S.882) introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders. We need to get Social Security off the chopping block.

We also need to make it clear that the State of Illinois should not balance the budget on the backs of children, the poor, the elderly, and the retired.

According to the Chicago Tribune article by Kathy Bergen and Melissa Harris, Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, two of three Illinois Corporations pay no income taxes! Of those who do pay ... the average bill was \$2,339.

Such an amount begs the question: **What's wrong with this picture????**

**Be scared! Be very scared!** Be concerned enough to act in your own behalf. Use Voter Voice. Get on the phone and write letters to your legislators. Be counted! Sign up for the IRTA-PAC. It's only \$1.00 per month and helps to keep up the sorely needed political battles. Always, there is more information available from the EARTA, IRTA and TRS websites.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cliff Olson, EARTA Legislative Chair; IRTA Legislative Comm.