

# The Jogger

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

## November 18th General Meeting at Randall Oaks Golf Club

Social Hour - Luncheon - Business & Information - Program

Time: 11:30am - 2:30pm

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

*Your menu will be a Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner*

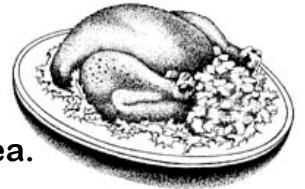
Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Cranberry Sauce

Tossed Salad - Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Dessert: PUMPKIN PIE

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

Reservations are due by November 5th.



Send your checks for \$18.50 per person which includes tax and gratuity payable to EARTA to :

Marilyn Hendry

1009 Meadow Lane Elgin Illinois 60123-1429.

Phone: 847- 695-2926



**VOTE !  
ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 8, 2011**



*Veterans Day  
November 11*

*We Remember*

***My Final "From the Gavel" can be found on Page 2***

**"And Now... for something completely different..." The positive!!**



It has been a very good two years working with and for the Elgin Area Retired Teachers. I have made wonderful friendships and look forward to years of fellowship with this dynamic group of people. When I retired in 2002, Carol Burkle, who I have known since my first semester in grad school, told me I had to join this group and get active. She assured me that this was the only group that supports all retirees and I would have a tough time keeping up with their enthusiastic pursuit of civic and social activities. I found them to also be wonderful caring people with the best interests of retirees, active teachers, students and education in general at heart. All of the talented members of the EARTA Board of Directors I have worked with have been very supportive of me and my efforts to continue their already excellent works. My deepest thanks! Mick Williams - President

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Eileen Moeller, Adrienne Berna's granddaughter, will be presenting an update of her experiences in Tanzania. She has been a volunteer for the Tanzanian Education Project which is a grassroots organization that promotes and builds sustainable education initiatives in the eastern African country. You won't want to miss hearing of her exciting adventures.**

**Supper Club:** The "Group" met on Monday, October 10, at Hooper's Bar and Grill for an evening of good food and companionship. The next get-together is scheduled for November 14th. All EARTA members and friends are invited. Mark your calendars and join us at 5:30 P.M.

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



**My Final "From The Gavel"**: It saddens me that I approach this final writing without a solution to the months and months of assaults on public employees and our pensions. I began "from the gavel" in May of 2010 to help keep you informed of the great job TRS was doing and how IRTA supported all of us. I said then that the news was not always good, but I found the best news possible for you. I regret being unable to have more good news than in that first column. TRS and IRTA are still strong. Our pensions are going to be there for those of us reading this today. The future...?? So, here you have it...

This is my last chance to report the "not very good news" from Springfield. The efforts continue to persuade the legislators that they must own up to their responsibility for the debt crisis and stop blaming public employees and specifically not classroom teachers. **Legislators** make the laws, not the overpaid lobbyists, nor overtly egotistical and blustering governors, and definitely not teachers. **Legislators** made it possible to negotiate retirement benefits that they had no intention of funding. **Legislators** were the ones who enabled governors to "borrow" from pension funds with no intent to pay back the millions owed. **Legislators** changed the laws that allowed banks and other lenders to trade, sell and ultimately completely devalue mortgages. Yet, the "business community", whose corporate profits have soared in the last two years after government bailouts and tax cuts, have continued to cry out for **no taxes!** They threaten to abandon their workers, abandon the communities that have supported them for decades! They flee to states where **legislators** have created "tax incentives" to strip their neighbors of their livelihood, the very incomes that supported those very same corporations in years past. Make no mistake, the repeated attempts to destroy the pension systems in this state and in this country are part of a calculated program whose intent is to enrich the already rich and create a permanent underclass. Please, read your history; it has been tried before and in today's electronic era the dire results would be world changing. Already our news media are reporting that the current state of the economy is encouraging our fiercest enemies to keep up the pressure on our central government. Those enemies expect to watch us collapse in the face of attacks from within not from outside our shores. Springfield is not a leader in this economic malay, it is a poor excuse for even a follower. The systematic underfunding of the State's obligations to its pension systems is nothing more than self-serving politics at its worst and Illinois has been famous for that for decades. The "not very good news" from downstate is that there seems to be little hope for a change of any significance there. Regionalism, party, and mostly, selfish political gain are still the only visible motives in the legislature this fall as in just about every other season. Sadly, however, their ruse seems to be working. No one seems to want to put the responsibility squarely where it belongs, (**Legislators**), but instead it is the fault of those, dare I use the words?, *retired teachers*.



Mick Williams  
EARJA President  
2009 - 2011

That's my latest and last opinion (for now) **"FROM THE GAVEL"**.

**UPDATE FROM EARTA BOARD 10/14/11**

Minutes of the August Board meeting were approved.

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Treasurer's Report from Jean Jederman: The checking account balance as of August 1st was \$998.60 and the savings balance was \$10,694.86. Transfer from savings to cover expenses was approved. \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

Kay Lincicome reported on a number of cards sent to members who are ill or hospitalized.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cindy Lange reported on the Thank You from Little Angels for the generous response at the September luncheon. Also, there was a blood drive at Larkin in September and there will be two in December. A sign up sheet will be passed at our November luncheon for 12/2 @Larkin and 12/14 @ St. Eds.

The pre-retirement reception will be April 26, '12; details later.

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Dave Brown reported our current membership at 447. He reminds everyone that they need to report any updates in phone numbers or email address to him when they happen. The deadline for the 2012 Directory will be January 15th after that changes will be reported in the Jogger.

\*\*\*\*\* UPDATE continues on Page 4 \*\*\*\*\*

**2012 \*\*\* TIME TO RENEW FOR \*\*\* 2012**  
**Unless you have Life Membership or use the deduct for IRTA the annual dues are:**  
**\$15.00 for EARTA & \$35.00 for IRTA.**  
**Make your check to EARTA and send to:**  
**Jean Jederman, Treasurer,**  
**865 Wing St., Elgin, IL 60123**

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEPT.

EARTA Luncheon & General Meeting  
September 16, 2011  
Elgin Country Club  
11:30 am – Social  
12:00 pm – Lunch

President Mick Williams welcomed the group, 96 strong today, at 11:58. Mick encouraged all of us to visit both the EARTA website (www.earta.org ) and the IRTA website (irta.org). He also congratulated Marvin and Donna Elbert on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Lunch was served following the invocation by Marvin Elbert.

**Call to Order:** Mick called the business meeting to order at 1:12 pm. pm.

**Officers' Reports:**

**Secretary** – Irene Wedemeyer. A motion to accept the June 17, 2011, General Meeting Minutes as printed in the Jogger was made by Cindy Lange and seconded by Coral Reinert. Motioned passed.

**Treasurer** – Jean Jederman. . A motion to accept the Aug. 1 treasurer's report as printed in the Jogger was made by Adrienne Berna and seconded by Cliff Olson. Motion passed.

Checking Account Balance as of Sept.1: \$898.59. Savings Account Balance as of Sept. 1: \$10,613.17

**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.).

16th GENERAL MEETING

**Social/Charity** – Coral Reinert. Coral circulated a basket for cash donations to the IRTA Ombudsman Program (for long-time retirees).

The Supper Club will meet on October 10 at Hooper's at 5:30 pm: all are welcome to attend. There are 2 tours planned:

Wed. 11/9 there is a trip to Sycamore's Little Chapel/Theatre in the Pines for lunch and the show "White Christmas Fantasy" with a stop for wine tasting in Genoa on the way home. There are still openings for this excursion!

Our Dec.15 (new date) trip into Chi-Town for dinner and the Donny and Marie Christmas Show is not only sold out but there is a waiting list of 8!

**Community Participation/Blood Drive** – Cindy Lange. Cindy needs 2 more helpers for the Sept. 22 blood drive.

**Legislation** – Cliff Olson. Cliff passed out a printed report (report on file). SB 512 did not make it out of committee but it will, inevitably, be brought up again. Mick stressed that we all need to be vigil and ready to take action at a moment's notice.

**Membership** – David Brown. Dave reported EARTA now has 442 members. He also reminded everyone to send him any change in phone numbers and home or email addresses.

**Nominations** – Adrienne Berna. Adrienne presented the following candidates for office. These will be published in the October Jogger with voting taking place at our Nov. General Meeting as per the EARTA Constitution:

President- Sandra Woolcott  
Treasurer- Jean Jederman  
Corresponding Secretary- Kay Lincicome

(continued on p.4)

**General Meeting Minutes  
Continued from Page 3**

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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

Mick reminded attendees that there were Voter Voice sign-up sheets circulating and that all Little Angel donations were being collected at the front table. Mick reported that we have 13 voting delegates to the IRTA Convention. We are entitled to 15. If anyone else wishes to attend, please see Mick for information.

Mick thanked Marilyn Hendry for all her work to make today's meeting a success.

The next General Membership Meeting & Luncheon is Nov. 18 at Randall Oaks Country Club in West Dundee (11:30-social, 12:00-lunch, 1:00-program).

Adjournment: It was moved (Dave Brown) and seconded (Marilyn Hendry) to adjourn. Motion passed—1:36 pm

**Program** –Coral Reinert introduced EARTA member Marilyn Foster who proceeded to dazzle us as her fingers flew across the ivories. Marilyn entertained us with selections from Chopin to Gershwin with a special treat as member Mary Ellen Kanies lent her wonderful voice to a rendition of "Autumn Leaves".

Irene Wedemeyer  
Secretary

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(Continued from Page 2):

**UPDATE FROM EARTA BOARD 10/14/11**

**Charity:** Coral Reinert expressed a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in the basket donation for "I Care" (the IRTA long term care ombudsman program). We collected \$303! It was sent out immediately and a thank you has been received.

**... EARTA BOARD 10/14/11**

**Dues change for 2013:**

Following a detailed financial examination and numerous Board discussions over the past year, the EARTA Board of Directors adopted a local dues increase for 2013. Local EARTA dues beginning in 2013 will \$25 for annual renewals and \$250 for a life membership in EARTA. For 2012, annual renewals will remain \$15 and life membership will still be available for \$150.

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**Upcoming Tours:**

Detailed tour information is on page 5.

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**Legislative:** See Cliff's report on Page 6.

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**IRTA Region 5 Director:** Marilyn Foster reported that a very productive meeting took place in DeKalb when TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram spoke. After that meeting local IRTA members expressed the willingness to reactivate the DeKalb local with new enthusiasm. Text of Director Ingram's Town Hall meeting can be found on the TRS web site at: <http://trs.illinois.gov/subsections/press/TownHall.pdf>.

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**IRTA CONVENTION SPRINGFIELD 2011**

The two day convention was attended by ten EARTA voting delegates on Oct.17th & 18th. The event brings together delegates from all six IRTA areas covering the entire state. Your new IRTA President is Gary Elmen from DuPage. He will be a great asset to IRTA and you will hear more about him in the future. Marti Swanson was re-elected as our Area 2 Rep.. Many of you have met her at one of our luncheons. Congratulations to all who were elected! \*\*\*\*\*

**REMINDER !**

EARTA Elections will be held at the November luncheon. Candidates presented by the Nominations Committee are:

- President- Sandra Woolcott
- Treasurer- Jean Jederman
- Corresponding Secretary- Kay Lincinome

2011 DIRECTORY OCTOBER NEW  
CHANGES / RENEWALS TOO LATE TO GET IN

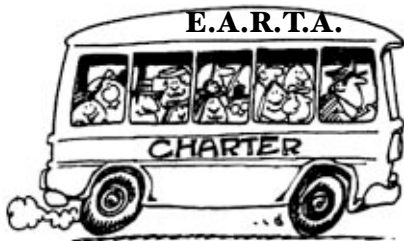
MEMBERS / CORRECTIONS /  
THE DIRECTORY

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Information removed for member privacy.

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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.



**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



**Tour Report: 1. Last Chance to sign up** for the tour on  
November 9<sup>th</sup>! 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.**



**Tour Report: 2** We are sold out for the Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, tour to  
Buca Di Deppo's Restaurant for dinner and to the Ford/Oriental Theatre to see  
the Donny and Marie Osmond "Christmas Show". For those who signed up  
we will depart about 3:00 P.M. from the parking lot behind the Easter Seal  
Center at 799 South McLean Blvd. and return approximately at 11:30 P.M.  
I do have a waitlist and as soon as anything becomes available I will notify  
you.



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

**Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**DATED MATERIAL**

**15 October 2011: Legislative Report for EARTA Board Meeting**

According to Crain's Chicago Business Magazine and the legislative grapevine, there will be another attempt at "pension reform" during the Fall VETO Session of the Illinois legislature. A group of leaders from the affected parties, including our Executive Director, Jim Bachman and lobbyist, Andrew Bowedes have been meeting semi-secretly. Last I heard the Civic Committee Reps were accepting The TRS actuarial figures. The suggested changes would underfund TRS by another \$65 Billion using his figures. There was a stalemate recently. There has been no indication of any details discussed. Any changes would be unconstitutional according to reputable attorneys and seven previous court cases.

Action Alert #32 is in regard to SocialSecurityFairness.com on 10/02/2011: you are requested to sign the petition and bookmark the address, <http://wh.gov//4KL>. They indicate the White House site can be slow, so be patient.

Dick Ingram, the Executive Director of TRS, has been holding town hall meetings around the state. He has been trying to dispel myths and misinformation put out by the Illinois Is Broke Coalition, the Koch Brothers, the Civic Committee of Chicago, etc. You may have seen his letters and talks reprinted in local newspapers under the heading "Some Truths About State Pensions."

As reported previously, IRTAPAC, the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Political Action Committee, needs you to sign up today! The opposition is spending millions. Each \$1.00 a month payroll deduction will help us re-elect endorsed candidates who work on our behalf.

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)**