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Current News of Special Interest to State Retirees

RSEA Website: [www.RSEA4U.org](http://www.RSEA4U.org)

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RSEA email: [Retire@RSEA4U.org](mailto:Retire@RSEA4U.org)

Vol. XXXII No. 10

October 2009

Editor, Marcia Hoos

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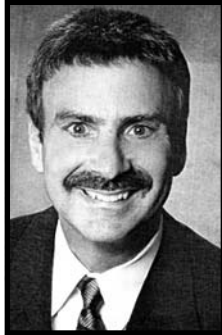
**Special Committee Members**

Alice Griffith  
*Social-Monthly Meeting*

Marcia Hoos  
Shirley Hagen  
Dorothy Tuxhorn  
Bill Curry  
*Holiday Luncheon*

Shirley Dillon  
Joanne Riedesel  
Dorothy Tuxhorn  
*Welcome*

Bill Pierce  
*Website Maintenance*



**SENATOR LARRY BOMKE RETURNS TO RSEA VIA AM MEETING**

Senator Bomke will be at our October 28th meeting to give us a clear view of what happen with the Dental Insurance and other interesting things going on.

Senator Bomke has always been a champion for RSEA causes. He can always be counted on to give a straight from the shoulder account of what's happening under the State House dome.

He will tell us the good, the bad and the ugly of the legislative story and hopefully give us a prediction on what action we can expect for the rest of the year.

Veto Session starts on our meeting day and that is why our meeting time is at 10:30 AM.

Bomke has been in the Senate since 1995, representing the 50th District.

RSEA always welcomes Senator Bomke and his insightful comments, and we're expecting the usual big turnout in October.

See you there - 10:30 AM.

- Marcia Hoos  
Editor



***THIS MONTH***

Wednesday, October 28, 2009  
**10:30 a.m.**  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Family Life Center  
2477 W. Washington St.  
Springfield, Illinois

**State Senator Larry Bomke**  
50th District

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**November - No Meeting**

**December 4, 2009**  
Holiday Party  
Northfield Inn, Springfield, IL  
11:00 - 3:00



by  
Ross Buie

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services has reported that about 4,000 retirees have elected to drop their dental insurance, while the administration projects that the increase in premiums on the bulk of state retirees will bring in about \$12 million dollars per year. There have been suggestions that reductions in the cost of this program could have saved about the same amount, avoiding the necessity of passing on premium increases to retirees. Admittedly, the increase in dental insurance premiums will not, in most cases, be a budget buster, but the concern is that this sets a precedent, the administration being able to increase premiums, or change coverage's, at any time, and with little advance notice.

And, state pensions, and benefits, have again come under fire. Recently, an article by the Chicago Sun Times discussed the growing problem of pension costs, and the impact on the state budget. And, of

course, they had to trot out the abuses, the tiny minority of pension recipients whose pensions exceed \$100,000. However, to their credit, the Sun Times also pointed the finger at state lawmakers for skipping pension payments, and pension borrowing schemes that only worsened the state's financial condition. The same article contained several suggestions for cutting future pension costs, including a two tier pension system for new state hires, ending the guaranteed 3 percent annual increase, and raising the minimum retirement age, none of which would affect current retirees.

Other business groups have long complained that pensions and benefits provided to public employees substantially exceeded pensions and benefits provided by private companies. Maybe, if they had dug deeper into private company pension plans, they might have found that they were comparing apples to oranges. A recent tel-

evision financial program, discussing private employer pension systems, brought out the fact that, while traditional, defined benefit pension plans, were becoming less and less common, almost half of the remaining traditional style pensions provided by private companies were entirely funded by the companies, no employee contributions required.

Contrast that with the state retirement plan, where employees have their required pension contributions deducted from their paychecks. This, while the state has consistently failed to contribute its share of contributions to the pension system. In good times, or bad, there seemed always to be projects, or programs, so important, so critical, that contributions to the pension system had to be reduced far below the amount required to meet the goal of full funding by the year 2045, a goal that has apparently fallen by the wayside.

## WE'VE GOT MAIL!

Hi!

Have been meaning to drop you all a line to let you know how much I enjoy reading "THE REPORTER" - (after looking at the drawings. Having studied art, a million years ago!) I certainly appreciate them.

This month however, there was NO drawing, and I was sorely disappointed. I do hope nothing has happened to him.

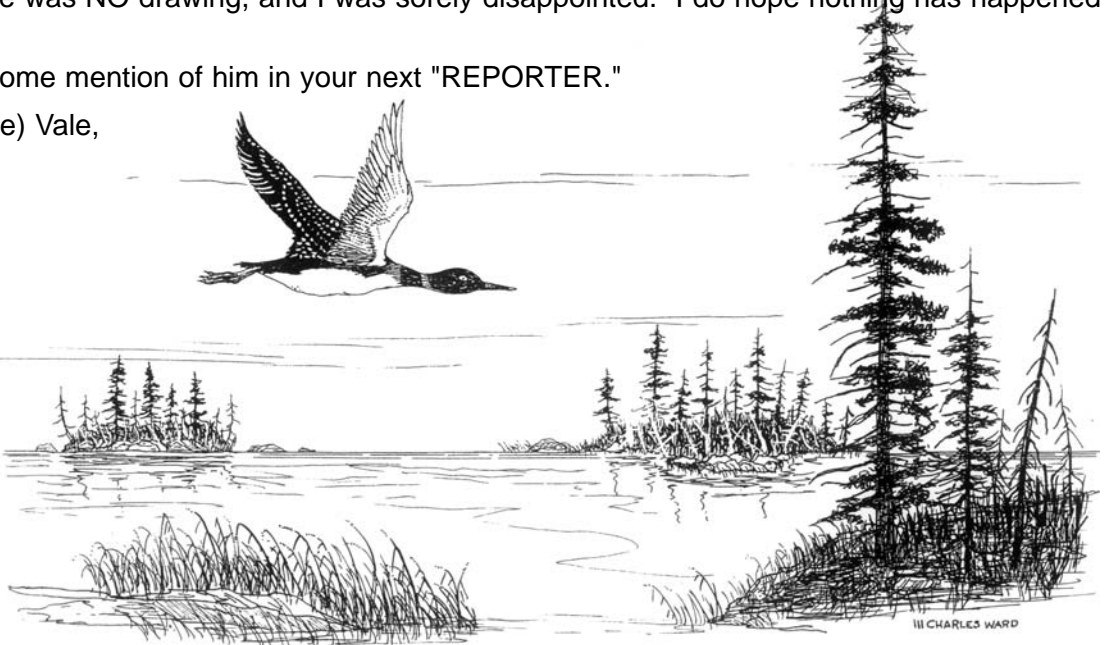
Could you please make some mention of him in your next "REPORTER."

Thanks - Rosemary (Posie) Vale,  
Deerfield, IL  
.....

Dear Rosemary,

Thank you for the nice letter and yes, I think we all like Mr. Ward's drawings. Last month I had no room to put a picture in, but I do try to get one in as often as possible. Keep reading each month and I am sure you will be delighted to see more of his drawings.

Marcia Hoos





# IRAQ OR SPRINGFIELD, WHERE WOULD YOU RATHER BE?



Jim Watson, State Representative from District 97, which includes counties of Morgan, Greene, Pike and parts of Madison and Macoupin, spoke to our group about his time in Iraq. He was there from February to

September 2008. Mr. Watson had also been in the Gulf War.

Rep. Watson told about the difference in living accommodation now as compared to his deployment in the Gulf War. This time he was housed in units much like the tin buildings used after Hurricane Katrina. Four men were in one "tin can". Gulf war accommodations were very primitive.

Some of the things he missed were the running water, ice and just plain pavement. Mr. Watson found out what do you do if you need a dentist while in Iraq. He could have gone to have it repaired in Germany but he decided to have it pulled and deal with the rest when he got home.

The language barrier was a major factor in his work while there. He had a translator that would also read

the emotions as well as the words. This is very important to be able to assist in offering suggestions. Rep. Watson worked with the Iraq government to set up a form of government that will work for the Iraq people. The committee meetings were unorganized so a book on Roberts Rule was translated to Arabic and given to all the members of the government. This could provide them a place to start.

One of the highlights while in Iraq was a visit from Senator Obama (prior to his election). President Obama recognized him from their former serving in Illinois legislature. Mr. Watson believes that the Senator listened to him and Iraq. This changed his plan for troop withdrawal.

The time we listened to his presentation was well spent and left you with the feeling that you would like to hear more. Mr. Watson felt our job is to "teach them to fish instead of fishing for them". He told of playing football, tic tack toe, thumb wrestling with some of the people and children. Rep. Watson feels we must build relationships so in the future we can all work together no matter what our politics. Is there a lesson here for the Illinois legislature?

Thank you, Representative Watson for such an enlightening presentation.

- Carolyn Ackley

## LET'S HAVE A PARTY - A BIG PARTY!

Welcome to the 2009 RSEA Holiday Party. Lots of wonderful things happen at our Holiday Parties. We meet old friends, coworkers, new friends, have a great meal and hopefully walk away with a prize. So let's get that cozy feeling going. COME ONE, COME ALL for \$15.00 you are getting a bargain.

**Friday, December 4, 2009**

**Northfield Center**

**3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois**

**11:00 am - 3:00 pm (Doors open at 10:30 am)**

**Cost: \$15.00 per person**

The event will begin with dancing from 11:00 TO 12:00 followed by a sit-down lunch. Cash bar from 11:00 to 3:00. Music will be provided by AC Music, Art Carlson.

The VFW Color Guard will present our flags and we will honor our service people. Entertainment will be provided by the Lincoln Land Community College Madrigal Singers.

Your lunch ticket automatically enters you in the drawings. A Mystery gift has been bought and it pertains to a "Cow for Santa". You just have to come and see, of course, you never know what other mystery gifts I might come up with. See you on December 4th.

Reservations are a MUST. There will be NO reservations after November 27th and no refunds.

A block of rooms have been reserved the nights of December 3 and 4 for our out of town members at the rate of \$69.00 plus tax a night. Anyone wanting to stay over or even come in the day before now have the option. The rooms will be saved for us until Nov. 23rd. So PLEASE make your room reservation to the Hotel. Tell them you are with the RSEA group to get your rate. Write Northfield Inn at 3280 Northfield Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62702 or call 217/523-7900.

For our guest coming in to Springfield the Hotel is on Springfield's northeast side. Take the Sangamon Avenue exit off I-55, go west to the first stoplight (Dirksen Parkway) and turn right. Turn right again at the next stoplight (Northfield Drive) and you will find the Northfield Inn just ahead.

Prizes are many, such as a GPS or a 19" HDTV. A list will be in the next issue. Hope to see you at the BIG PARTY.

- MARCIA, BILL, DOROTHY, AND SHIRLEY - HOLIDAY COMMITTEE PERSONS

# FROM THE PREZ...

High blue skies with fluffy clouds, cool mornings, and warm afternoons. It must be October. One other item can be added. October is the month for the election of new officers for RSEA. This is an opportunity for you to become more involved. Seek out Larry Wort, First Vice-President and tell him you are interested in becoming an officer. Presently, we have a slate of candidates. However, I strongly believe that we should have choices when electing people to offices in associations, organizations, and public office.

I hope you read September's

REPORTER thoroughly! If you did, you should be aware that our membership meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. October 28, 2009. Why the change? That is the only time state Senator Larry Bomke could speak to our association. Please mark the change on your calendar and attend. St. John's Lutheran Church remains the location of the meeting.

Our Christmas Luncheon is approaching. It is December 4th. For more details, please look in the REPORTER. There is a reservation form to complete. Fill it out, send your check, and a self

addressed stamped envelope to the address on the form. Your ticket(s) will be mailed to you. The Christmas Luncheon is an enjoyable time! Please attend this year if you have not attended, or are a new member. You will be glad you did.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday October 28, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 West Washington, Springfield, Il. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. Please note time change. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

- G. William Curry, President RSEA

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## CHICAGO METRO CHAPTER

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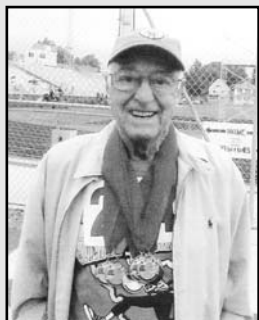
Hello Chicago Metro RSEA members! At our last meeting there were 20 members listening intently to Larry Keeler, the representative from Social Security. Afterwards did we have questions---he answered all of them and I think everyone left knowing more than they did when they arrived. Another hot topic was the recent sensational articles regarding pensions & the surprise decision that retirees must pay for dental insurance. Each member was urged to send a handwritten letter to the Governor and our legislators expressing their opinion on this subject. Members are also urged to attend our Oct. 28th meeting to hear Susan Shapiro from Life Line Screening. She is coordinator for a community-based preventive health screenings for stroke & vascular disease prevention & ways that people can be proactive about their own health & wellness. No meeting is planned for Nov. I do, however, highly recommend attendance at the Annual Xmas Party on Dec 4th. See details in the Reporter. Our next meeting is scheduled for the third Wed in Jan, 2010. Until then, have a great holiday season, stay safe and see you next year!

- Sylvia Schluter, Chairperson

### RAY ACKERMAN WINS 9 GOLD MEDALS IN THE SENIOR OLYMPICS AND 1 SILVER

Ray, a member of the Board of RSEA, competed in the 2009 Illinois Senior Olympics held in Springfield, Illinois in September. His medals were in the 90 to 94 year-old bracket and were for the following events.

- 1 - 3/8 oz. Bait Casting
- 2 - 5/8 oz. Bait Casting
- 3 - Miniature Golf
- 4 - 100 Yard Backstroke
- 5 - 50 Yard Freestyle
- 6 - 100 Yard Freestyle
- 7 - 50 Yard Backstroke
- 8 - Discus
- 9 - Shot Put
- 10 - Standing Long Jump - Silver Medal



The goals of the Senior Olympics are for Senior Citizens to stay in condition and compete in various events. Having incentives helps in meeting those goals.

### RSEA OFFICERS FOR 2010 TO BE ELECTED IN OCTOBER

In accordance with the bylaws, the Retired State Employees Association will elect officers at its business meeting on October 28th. The newly elected officers will be installed at the Christmas Party on December 4.

*Following is the slate of officers to be voted upon:*

For President - Bill Curry

For First Vice President - Carolyn Ackley

For Second Vice President - Arno Grey

For Treasurer - James Clancy

For Secretary to the Board - Carol Matheson

Any member who is interested in running for one of these offices should contact Larry Wort at 217/498-9120, or in care of RSEA, P.O. Box 1974, Springfield, Illinois 62705-1974.



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*TICKET ORDER - RSEA ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS PARTY*

*FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2009 - 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.  
NORTHFIELD INN - 3280 NORTHFIELD DRIVE - SPRINGFIELD, IL*



My/ our choice of entree is:

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Chicken Breast

\_\_\_\_\_ Pork Medallions

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets

@\$15.00 each

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to RSEA. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail to:

Marcia Hoos - 1241 Urban Ave. Springfield, IL 62704 217/546-1404

DEADLINE FOR TICKET ORDERS: NOVEMBER 27

