

**The Desktop** - PCRTA 50 years in September  
The Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association



Volume 25 Issue 3 June- July 2016



**CONTENTS:**

**Page 1.& 2.** PCRTA Scholarship Winners, 2016 Memorial Scholarships.

**Page 3.** Pay It Forward Scholarship by Dave Gynn; PCRTA Member Dave Spencer, honored; In Memory, Martha Hatcher.

**Page 4.** Members work with Habitat for Humanity; Proctors Reception.

**Page 5.** Portage Medical Foundation, Volunteers wanted; In Memory, Joanne Newhauser.

**Page 6.** May PCRTA Luncheon

**Page 7.** Legislative News; PCRTA visits PCHS.

**Page 8.** May Ex. Meeting.

**Page 9.** Ex. Meeting continued; Membership; Thank You to Jan Fencl.

**Page 10.** Luncheon Reservation; Social News.

**Page 11.** Letter from former PCRTA scholarship winner.

**Page 12.** Membership form.

**2016 PCRTA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

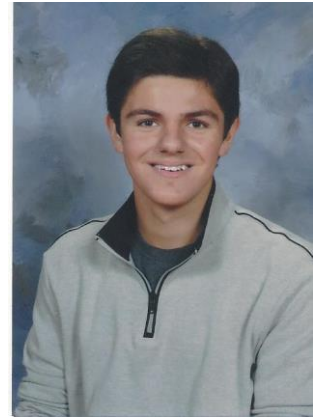
It is with great pleasure that PCRTA announces our 2016 Scholarship Recipients.



*Zack Adair*



*Ryan Conroy*



*Steven Joseph Farhat*



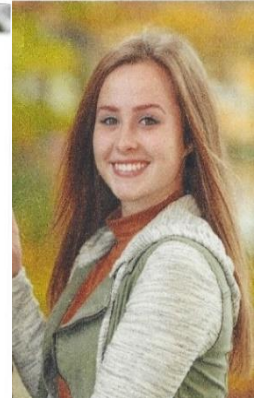
*Madeline Zupko*



*Raegan Butler*



*Coreena Wise*



*EmiLee Hartman*

We wish much success to these very talented and bright scholars. Please come to our **July 21, 2016**, luncheon meeting to meet them and learn about their many talents and future plans. The theme for the interactive luncheon program with the scholarship winners centers around the Presidential Election. The luncheon reservation form is on page 10.

**2016 PCRTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AS MENTIONED BELOW:**

Ken and Nancy Bliss Scholarship

Steven Joseph Farhat Ravenna High School Major: education

Ray and Doris Aeschliman Scholarship

Reagan Butler Kent Roosevelt High School Major: studio art and education

Merri-Lu Ritz Memorial Scholarship

Madeline Zupko Streetsboro High School Major: secondary education and journalism

Annual PCRTA Memorial Scholarship in honor of Janet May and Martha Hatcher

Ryan Conroy Field High School Major: middle school education

PCRTA Scholarships

Zachary Adair Kent Roosevelt High School Major: secondary education and math

EmiLee Hartman Kent Roosevelt High School Major: secondary education and math

Coreena Wise Kent Roosevelt High School Major: secondary education and math

The following PCRTA members gave out the scholarship certificates at the various honors programs: Ria Mastromatteo at Field, Sylvia Armstrong at Roosevelt, and Jim Montaquila at Streetsboro.

Scholarship Chair Jim Montaquila reported that the committee met on Friday, April 15 to review the applications for scholarships. The committee members were Jim Montaquila, Jan Fencl, Pat Gynn, Lowell Myers, Darlene Fetterhoff, Ria Mastromatteo and Kay Wise.

There were thirteen applicants from five schools. The committee selected seven students to receive scholarships of \$1,500.

---

**2016 Annual Memorial Scholarship by Darlene Fetterhoff**

Has a colleague or friend passed and you have wanted to remember him or her in a special way as a teacher? By contributing to the PCRTA Scholarship fund in his or her name, this can be easily done.

This year two very strong educators are being honored. Janet May, an English teacher in Streetsboro City Schools, not only excelled in the classroom, but also Janet's leadership in the 1960's and 70's resulted in exceptionally strong teacher contracts. She possessed qualities of intelligence, wisdom and foresight that motivated many of her colleagues.

Martha Hatcher, a music teacher in Southeast Schools, also excelled in the classroom, but her legacy lives far beyond. All who knew her recognized the exceptional musical talent she shared in her community, her church, and with both young and adult music students.

We are honored to recognize these two exceptional teachers in our 2016 Annual Memorial Scholarship.

**PAY IT FORWARD SCHOLARSHIP by Dave Gynn.**

To celebrate PCRTA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are beginning a Pay It Forward Scholarship. Pay it forward is an expression for describing the beneficiary of good fortune by repaying it to others. The phrase may have been coined by Lily Hardy Hammond in her 1916 book *In the Garden of Delight*.

Our scholarship program began several years ago when we awarded one modest \$300 scholarship. The program has grown, and this year we will award seven \$1,500 scholarships. Funds have come from donations, memorials, proctoring and other projects.

Members are now urged to consider their good fortune to have retired from an honorable profession with some means to help future teachers through the PCRTA scholarship program. It is our hope this account will grow so we will always be in a position to continue the scholarship program.

PCRTA Scholarship is a 501c3 organization, and contributions qualify as IRS tax deductions. Contributors to the Pay it Forward Scholarship will be reported to the membership in these classes: \$1-\$49, \$50-\$99, \$100-\$249, \$250-\$499, \$500-\$999, \$1,000 and up. Contributions should be made to PCRTA Scholarship and sent to Darlene Fetterhoff, 2417 Duck Pond Drive, Ravenna, OH 44266.

**PCRTA MEMBER HONORED**

David Spencer, who served for 33 years as a teacher and elementary school principal for Kent City School district, was inducted into school's Hall of Fame. He recognized with the Special Honorary Achievement Award. Dave is a member of ORTA and PCRTA and was a candidate for the state Board of Education.

Known among many as "the man in charge of those words," Spencer coordinated the Character Education program for Kent Schools after retirement. The program focused on core values, including responsibility, respect, empathy, courage and inclusiveness. "When you set high standards for yourself and you try to live up to something, then you know you need additional

**IN MEMORY**

Martha Sue "Marty" (McConnell) Hatcher,

Martha Sue (McConnell) Hatcher, age 67 of Edinburg, passed away Friday, May 6, 2016. She was born May 8, 1948, in Ravenna, Ohio, a daughter of the late Mason and Eleanor (Seymour) McConnell. Marty grew up on the McConnell's Fruit Farm and was a longtime member of the Edinburg United Church. Marty graduated from Muskingum College and later earned her Master's Degree in the Art of Teaching from Mary Grove College. Her love of music led to Marty's career as a music teacher with Southeast School District for over 33 years. She also taught countless private piano lessons from her home. Marty was a member of PCRTA/ORTA. Last year Marty accompanied Len Suzelis for the PCRTA December meeting musical entertainment.



*Martha Hatcher*

### **PCRTA MEMBERS WORK ON HOME ON LINCOLN STREET IN RAVENNA ON MAY 3, 2016**



*Carol Remington, Kay Wise, Judy Morgan*

Protective Services Chair Kay Wise reported that the PCRTA members who participated in Women Build with Habitat for Humanity were Karen Balog, Judy Morgan, Phyllis Spangler and Kay Wise. Carol Remington, ORTA President, joined them and worked very hard. They did everything from putting vinyl siding on to tearing off the old back deck. For their efforts they received lunch, a shirt, a builder's apron and a pink water bottle. Other people working on the Habitat 4 Humanity site on May 3 included a young man who will, after the project is completed, live in the house with his mother.

**On May 25, 2016,** PCRTA also provided a lunch on-site at the home behind the Re-Store in Kent for Habitat for Humanity workers. Marge Conroy and Helena Parry prepared all the food for 20 workers. PCRTA members gave monetary donations at the

May meeting for the food. The money bought bananas, apples, cheeses, crackers, vegetables and sour cream and two cases of water. Helena also made her signature cheese ball for the event as well as did she make an onion, dill and sour cream dip for the vegetables.

### **NEOMED HOSTS RECEPTION FOR PCRTA PROCTORS**



On Thursday May 26, 2016, NEOMED hosted a reception for those from PCRTA who proctor. The program included Jaclyn Boyle who talked about "The Changing Role of the Pharmacist: How NEOMED Is Supporting This Effort," Douglas Gugel-Bryant and Suzanne Hrico.

Left to right: David Reith, Suzanne Hrico, Speaker Jaclyn Boyle (Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Innovations Pharmacist), Douglas Gugel-Bryant (NEOMED student who delivered thanks), Pat Youtz, Wendy Cooley, Millie Keller, Ron Snowberger, Fran Pruchinski, Denise Craig, Mary Reith, Edie Scott, Saroj Sutaria, John Kerstetter, Phyllis Spangler, Sandy Kerstetter, Carol Stokes, Ruth Weigand, Mary Evelyn Shabino, Joanne Stikes, Dave Gynn

**Portage Medical Center Foundation: The Dr. Steve and Patti Dean Scholarship Fund for Kent State University students. The Peter F. Chen, M.D. Medical Staff Scholarship Fund for high school seniors**



The PCRTA members pictured above who formed a team to select scholarships winners for high school seniors of employees at the University Hospital Medical Center were:

Left to right: Judy Hendershot, Dave Gynn, Ruth Weigand, Ron Snowberger and Helena Parry.

The team worked to select 5 out of 10 applicants from various area high schools. Each one received a \$1000.00 scholarship to the college of their choice. The team also recommended that two out of two Kent State University students who were also from employees' families at University Hospital should each receive a scholarship. The scholarships were provided by Dr. Peter Chen and Dr. Steve and Patti Dean.

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

The Gift Shop at UH Portage Medical Center is currently looking for enthusiastic men and women volunteers who enjoy a retail environment and could give 4-8 hours of service per week. There are opportunities for working in the back office (good organizational and detail skills to help with ordering, pricing and stock processing) and/or assisting customers out front (must be comfortable using a computer for cashiering). The Gift Shop at the hospital is a service of The Auxiliary of UH Portage Medical Center, and all proceeds from gift shop sales are used by the Auxiliary to fund improvements in patient services and projects that promote the health and welfare of the community.

For more information, contact UH Portage Medical Center Volunteer Services at (330) 297-2591 or apply directly online at [UHPortage.org](http://UHPortage.org) (Volunteer tab).

Check out our [pcrta.org](http://pcrta.org) for more volunteer opportunities and our other news. We always need volunteers to proctor at NEOMED. Contact Edith Scott 330-297-1812 if you can proctor. Edith is planning another orientation session as soon as she gets enough people who can help.

**IN MEMORY**

Joanne Newhauser passed away on June 1. She retired from Ravenna in 1997, where she taught art at Brown Middle School for 15 years. After her retirement, she served on the Ravenna Board of Education. She joined ORTA and PCRTA in 2003 and became a life member of both organizations in 2005. She served as PCRTA vice president. She is survived by her children: Paul M. Newhauser of Ravenna, Charles (Patricia) Newhauser of Hinckley, Judy (Eric) Holdener of Gambier, Ohio, and Tina (Mark) Newhauser-Willoughby of East Lansing, MI. An only child, her memory will also be cherished by her five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



*Joanne Newhauser*

### **HIGHLIGHTS of the MAY 2016 PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING**

Forty-nine members and guests attended the May luncheon.

President Helena Parry welcomed Portage County Commissioners Kathleen Chandler, Maureen Frederick and Vicki Kline. Maureen Frederick paid tribute to Doris Wise, who was with the Ravenna school system during the time of the strike. She related that Doris was willing to go to jail for the cause of teachers --which she did. She concluded by thanking all teachers for their service and preparation of students. Kathleen Chandler and Vicki Kline read a proclamation honoring PCRTA and recognizing PCRTA for the volunteer hours and scholarships given over the years. They thanked us for our commitment and presented Helena with a certificate. Helena then introduced Ann Womer Benjamin, Mayor of Aurora, Ohio. Who stated that "Teachers are near and dear to my heart." Her father was a lawyer who represented teachers. She presented a proclamation to all teachers and concluded by thanking everyone for our many years of service. Representative Kathleen Clyde had planned to come but was unable to.

Much interest was shown in the wooden items turned by the late Richard Hendershot, husband of membership chair, Judy



*Judy Hendershot*

Hendershot. Rich ordered wood from all over the world and sold thousands of pieces over the years. Thanks to Judy for displaying his outstanding work.

Pat Farley choose a basket of maple sugar items as the 1<sup>st</sup> drawing of the 50/50, while Earl Kitchemann won the cash, which he donated back to PCRTA. The maple sugar items were donated by Virginia Goodell of Goodell Farms in Manuta.



*Helena Parry, Vickie Kline, Kathleen Chandler, Maureen Frederick*



*Kay Wise Ann Womer Benjamin*

The main speaker for the event was Barbara Petroski from the Portage County Historical Society. To go along with the celebration of PCRTA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Barb spoke on the educational heritage of schools in Portage County. To enhance her talk, she had a Power Point presentation of pictures of school students, some examples of old reports cards and teachers' records. Barb told us she is soon retiring from her volunteer position as historian, librarian and treasurer at PCHS.

### **LEGISLATIVE NEWS by Dan McCombs**

ORTA is currently looking to replace Carol Kinsey as our State Legislative chair. She recently resigned from this position and will be missed by our membership. She leaves us with several concerns that we must continue to address. One of the most important ones is the creation of an ORTA Legislative Day at the Statehouse in late April/early May, 2017. 2017 will be a state budget year and items are often inserted that have nothing to do with the budget, but have a great deal to do with impacting retirees. We need to be fully involved in this critical process. This will help ORTA and all our members to maintain ongoing relationships with our local legislators. We all must be willing to keep in contact with them especially when we are not asking for their support.



*Dan McCombs*

Even though we cannot be involved, as an organization, in endorsing candidates for political office, we can screen candidates for membership on the STRS Board. This is critical for us since the Board has a huge impact on our pensions, healthcare and the legislature. Pensions are mandated by the state but the Legislature can make changes to our pension system anytime they can get enough votes to pass whatever bill they choose. Remember how important DEFINED BENEFITS are to us.

### **PCRTA SOCIAL OUTING TO PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

On May 24, 2016, PCRTA members visited Portage County Historical Society on Chestnut St. in Ravenna, OH.



Those who joined in the fun were left to right: Dick Ruch (new member), tour guide, Jackie Jones, John and Patricia Eichler, Mary Evelyn Shabino, Soroj Sutaria, Phyllis Spangler, Kay Wise, John and Sandy Kerstetter. Not pictured is Pat Gynn.

The Social Committee is planning an outing on **Sunday, June 26, 2016**, to the Weathervane Playhouse at 1301 Weathervane Lane, Akron, Oh.at 2:00p.m.to see "Monty Python's Spamalot." Dinner will follow the performance at Papa's Joe's. To make reservations call Wendy Cooley at 330-525 1998. **For the Aug. 3, 2016**, outing to Porthouse Theater call John & Sandy Kerstetter 330-673-0129. See more details about Porthouse on page 10.

### **PCRTA Executive Committee Meeting May 12, 2016**

Vice President Georgia Darrah called the 501(c)3 meeting to order followed by the 501 (c) 4 meeting. The minutes were approved.

Judy Morgan announced that the GED graduation will be June 9, and she will need help.

Legislative Chair Dan McCombs reported that Carol Kinsey, ORTA Legislative Chair, has resigned and said that she has been very good about keeping us informed. At the state legislative meeting it was emphasized that ORTA and PCRTA must remain objective politically. However, it is critical that we are aware of the candidates for the STRS board because they deal with our pensions, and legislation can change internal structures. Jim McGreevy and Bob Stein are good candidates. ORTA DAY at the statehouse will address budget concerns. ORTA suggests that we maintain contact with our legislators ALL THE TIME.

NEOMED Proctor Scheduling Chair Edith Scott reported that by the end of June we will have proctored 120 exams with 327 proctors donating 895 hours.

Pre-Retirement Co-Chairs Richard and Mary Ann Brockett reported on the Pre- Retirement Workshop which was held on April 16, 2016. The program included Judy Hendershot, who spoke on behalf of PCRTA; Lawyer Michelle Keith, who spoke on legal necessities for retirement; Investment Counselor Ray Kline who, spoke about maximizing income before retirement; and STRS Counselor John Buch, who discussed retirement income and health care issues. The program was well received by the audience. Twelve teachers attended. With spouses, friends, speakers and PCRTA members there were thirty in attendance.

Reservations Chair Karen Balog stated that she has 45 reservations for the luncheon so far. She has a new email address specifically for PCRTA. [pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com](mailto:pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com)

Webmaster Connie Evans stated that for privacy reasons information about the scholarship winners has been removed from the web. She has been working to divide the minutes and the announcements into years. As it was, the pages were getting so long that she could not save the information, and, therefore, could not make corrections or additions.

Assistant Treasurer Darlene Fetterhoff gave the 501(C)3 Scholarship Treasury Report January 2016 – May 6, 2016.

Checking Account Balance	\$8,981.48
Saving Account Balance	\$11,900.08
Stifel Balance 4-30-16	\$50,059.59

A donor from NEOMED donated \$500.00

NOTE: See the website for the full report.



**PCRTA Executive Committee Meeting May 12, 2016, continued**

PCRTA Treasury Report March 1 – April 30, 2016

Prepared by Treasurer Dave Gynn given by Darlene Fetterhoff.

Checking Account Balance	\$5,170.05
Saving account Balance	\$755.33
Stifel Balance 4-30-16	\$29,196.66

NOTE: See the website for the full report.

Darlene Fetterhoff also presented the PCRTA audit prepared by Alan Balog, CPA, on May 5, 2016.

NOTE: See the website for the full report.

Ron Snowberger gave the Trustee's report. He said the STRS program at Alliance was outstanding, but there were not many people there. STRS made it clear that our health benefits are not guaranteed—never were. The ORTA Board Conference is in the fall. It would be wise for people to attend. ORTA membership is critical in order to have influence on the legislature.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Fewer Portage County Teachers are choosing to retire from their classrooms this year. Several districts including Ravenna report no new retirees. That was almost to be expected after last year's mass exodus into retirement because of the changes STRS framed out for the next few years. So far we have sent letters of invitation to join PCRTA to 23 prospective members. If we are to reach our goal of 50 new members during this our 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, we need to look back to our colleagues who have retired over the last few years and not previously considered the benefits that ORTA and PCRTA offer. It has been mentioned before but bears mentioning again: personal invitation and word of mouth information produce far more results than a letter in the mail.



*Judy Hendershot*

I have a long list of candidates that I intend to contact. Our committee is asking that you might also review your list of former colleagues who you might encourage into membership. We will be happy to follow up on your invitation, if you will send along the names of any potential members. As always, we emphasize a dual membership in PCRTA/ORTA at \$40.00 a year – usually a little less than one month's cost of living increase for those of us already retired.

Thank you for your membership and your support of PCRTA. You make a difference.

**THANK YOU JAN FENCL**

PCRTA would like to offer their sincere thanks to Jan Fencl who for years served on the PCRTA Executive Board. Jan was the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee. Jan has resigned that position but remains as a member of PCRTA/ORTA

**LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

**The July 21, 2016, PCRTA Luncheon will be at The Ravenna Elks Club 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio – Cost is \$14.00**

**On-site caterer, David Weidaw, and his staff will be preparing the luncheon of:** lemon pepper chicken, pasta primavera, mixed vegetables, redskin potatoes, dessert, rolls and butter, water, coffee, tea & lemonade.

Number of buffet reservations \_\_\_\_\_

List names (for name tags) Please print and mark clearly.\*\* List your name and phone first.



I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$14.00 for each luncheon reservation).

I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the scholarship fund. \*\* Please indicate if any names listed are new members or guests.

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by July 11, 2016.** Mail your check made out to PCRTA and reservations to:

**Karen Balog: 516 E. Main St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266 - 330-296-8467**

[pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com](mailto:pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com)



**PLEASE BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO THIS JULY MEETING**

\*\*\*\*\*

**MORE DETAILS FOR SOCIAL TRAVEL**

**Footloose- Wednesday August 3- Porthouse Theater 8 p.m.**

Location: 1145 Steels Corners road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Cost: \$23 if there are 10 reservations or more; \$33 less than 10 reservations.

Due: July 1, 2016

Dinner at Sarah’s Vineyard 5:00 p.m.(individual checks for meals)

Location: 1204 W. Steels Corners Road, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Contact : John and Sandy Kerstetter 330-673-0129

**A LETTER FROM RACHEL BAUGHMAN, FORMER PCRTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER- (2014)**

I just completed my third year on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota teaching 8th grade English at Todd County Middle School for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. This year, I will begin teaching 8th grade social studies at McAuliffe International Schools for Denver Public Schools. I continue to love the teaching profession and the joy, opportunities and growth it provides.

Below, I've included an update email I send out to family and friends reflecting on my time as a teacher on a Native reservation. I hope it provides a bit more context and information about my experience. I continue to be thankful for the generosity of PCTRA and the incredible preparation I received from Kent City Schools.

Thank you! Rachel Baughman

My thoughts: I'm sitting in an empty classroom, save a half-eaten tin of cashews, my school bag and a stack of blank CDs. I've turned in my keys and received all of the required signatures for checking-out of the school building, and, subsequently, the school year. My feet are kicked up on my desk as I lean back in my chair, a position that feels like home, and assess my to-do list. It's a little after two in the afternoon; just shy of two hours before I pack up and walk out of Todd County Middle School for the last time until who knows when. The heaviness of this reality is settling in, bringing with it enthusiastic anticipation, a healthy level of fear and a tremendous, although perhaps not unexpected, amount of heartache.

As many of you have already heard, be it through Facebook, a conversation we've had at some point or another or the grapevine syndicate my mother runs out of her craft room, I've accepted an extraordinary teaching position at McAuliffe International School, part of the Denver Public School District in Colorado. Last weekend, three of my closest friends moved all of my worldly possessions to a third-story apartment with a Front Range view in Hampden and, in August, I'll begin teaching a whole new batch of 8th graders American history. I know I am ready for this transition and longing for the new experiences, new opportunities and new challenges it will provide, but it's still hard to go. It's really hard. Really.

Thanks to all of the lengthy drives I've taken in the past month, to and from the grocery store or to and from Rapid City, I've been provided with time to slowly and naturally reflect on all that the past three years have meant to me since I arrived, unknowing and terrified, but desperately yearning to do good, at my little periwinkle house with my roommate Katie. As I've tried to organize all of the thoughts, from the highlights that bring a bright smile to my face to memories of the darker moments, this quote keeps popping into my head. It was a selection I chose back in high school as a part of Kent Roosevelt's leadership retreat planning committee and has obviously stuck with me since (I guess Mother Theresa's powerful advice will do that to a person). To be continued later.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dave Gynn  
4210 Lancaster Lane  
Kent, Ohio 44240

Please notify PCRTA of any address change

Address Codes  
S=State (ORTA) P=Portage(PCRTA)  
Life memberships are indicated by (life)  
and annual memberships are indicated by  
(ann) + the year.  
Example: S(life) P(ann) 2014 means that  
local dues are paid through 2014and  
would be due at this time in 2015.

[www.pcрта.net](http://www.pcрта.net)

Karen Balog

Connie Evans



Webmasters

\*\*\*\*\*

2016 PCRTA/ ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement District & Year \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PCRTA \$10.00- ORTA \$30.00 = \$40.00** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship donation** \_\_\_\_\_

PCRTA Life Membership = \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_

ORTA Life Membership = \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Total of check \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to PCRTA. Complete the form and mail both to:

**Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240**

