

## THE DESKTOP

*A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association  
Volume 25 Issue 4 August-September 2016*

### 50 Years in SEPTEMBER



PCRTA SINCE 1966

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JIM SCHILLING TO SPEAK AT PCRTA SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to spend your teaching career teaching in a one room schoolhouse? What would it have been like to have students of all ages sitting in one big room with rows of wooden desks and a potbellied stove nearby?

If you would like some insight into the past, you will not want to miss hearing our September guest speaker, Jim Schilling, from Hale Farm and Village. He will take us back in time as he shares with us his role as "Schoolmaster" Schilling.

A retired school teacher and principal, Jim Schilling joined Hale Farm & Village in fall 2015 as a museum educator. Already, he has some memories that stand out: During the Lantern Tours he played a Western Reserve entrepreneur preparing for Christmas 1865 at the Goldsmith House. He enjoyed teaching visitors about gift giving and decorating then, as well as how families prepared for Christmas while grieving their losses from the Civil War. Jim can be found serving as the Village store proprietor, in the First Settlement pioneer cabin, talking about architecture in the Goldsmith House and, yes, in the school. A husband, father and grandfather, Jim values the potential for building understanding through sharing hands-on living history with all generations.



Jim Schilling

**PORTAGE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS RECEIVE COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD**



*Judy Morgan*

Judy Morgan accepted the Community Partner Award for Portage County Retired Teachers given by the Portage County Literacy Coalition. Judy was very surprised at the GED ceremony at the Maplewood Career Center on June 9, 2016, when she was called to the stage to receive the award on behalf of PCRTA.

PCRTA members have been providing refreshments for this event for many years. This year we served over 200 graduates and guests.

Retired ABLE (Adult Basic and Literacy Education) Coordinator at Maplewood Career Center and PCRTA member, Helen Jane Wilson, traveled from the state of Washington to attend the graduation, where she paid tribute to the graduates, the teachers of Maplewood and Doris Schoning, retiring ABLE Coordinator. She also welcomed the new ABLE/GED Coordinator, Laure Gaunter.

The Wilson family scholarships are awarded each year at the GED ceremony to ABLE students.



Those who baked and helped serve refreshments at the GED ceremony were left to right front row: Joanne Stikes, Sharon Watts, Judy Morgan, Kathy Latimer and Pat Gynn; back row: Helena Parry and Ruth Weigand.

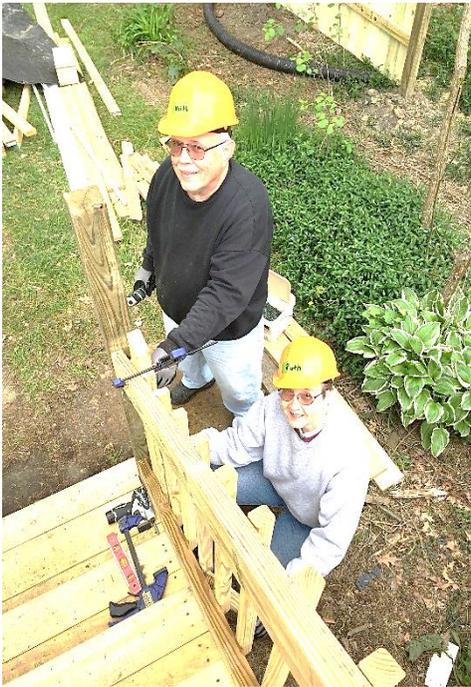
Thanks to Judy Hendershot, Georgia Darrah and Phyllis Spangler for also baking for the event.

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**TWO MORE AVAILABLE DATES for the AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM-2016 By Kay Wise.**

The smart driver course is open to all licensed drivers age 50 and is provided to better compensate for age related changes in vision, hearing and reflexes. After completing this course, participants may qualify for a lower cost of car insurance. No tests are handed in and there is no actual driving. Trained volunteers conduct the training. The fee is \$15.00 for AARP members or \$20 for non-members. The remaining classes are **August 18 and November 17, 2016**. The time is 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Pre-registration is needed. Send your check (**no cash**) to: Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Road, Tallmadge, Ohio 44278. 330-633-5610.

### **VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**



Our member Ruth Wagner and her husband Keith are regular and loyal volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. They joined the work crew for many Wednesday work days this summer.

If you can help out, consider contacting Ron Snowberger, PCRTA Habitat Chairperson at 330-678-3268 or call the number below.

Habitat for Humanity of Portage County  
6630 Cleveland Road  
Ravenna, OH 44266

330.296.2880 Phone

330.296.5263 Fax

[www.habitatofportage.org](http://www.habitatofportage.org)



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### **LEGISLATIVE by Dan McCombs**

I want to take the time to express my sincere congratulations to PCRTA as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. I can never thank ORTA and PCRTA enough for staying on top of pension reforms and supporting our ability to keep receiving those monthly retirement checks. I am also grateful that we were able to reinstate our COLA for this year. These kind of actions do not occur without many hours of dedication from our members. This fact alone gives us enough reason to join our professional organizations at the state and local levels. Where would we be today without the vigilant eyes of these great professional groups? I am also thankful that you always respond to our call to contact our local and national legislators during times of concern by phone, e-mails and letters. Without these combined efforts, we would not be where we are today.



*Dan McCombs*

While I am at it, I want to thank all of our officers for their time energy and effort on our behalf. Think seriously about getting involved in this much needed effort by running for an office or at least helping by serving on a committee as a volunteer. It would be greatly appreciated and would help put people in the pipeline for future roles in PCRTA.

Have a great rest of the summer and get ready for an exciting Presidential race. I can hardly wait for it to be over.

**WHERE WERE YOU IN 1966? by Dave Gynn**

Were you retired? Teaching? In college or high school?

On September 15, 1966 – 50 years ago – retired teachers in Portage County formed PCRTA, a chapter of Ohio Retired Teachers Association. They met to improve pension and insurance benefits. They met for luncheons, had speakers and quickly adopted community service projects.

During the past fifty years, our chapter has been very active

—demonstrating commitment and dedication to the protection, promotion, and enhancement of educator retirement benefits;

--providing a voice and resource for retired teachers.

--influencing legislation important to education and retirees.

--contributing over two million hours of volunteer service to community organizations.

--providing scholarships to nearly one hundred future teachers of Portage County.

--offering a forum for active legislative involvement.

--offering helpful informative and protective services.

--hosting pre-retirement workshops for active teachers.

Where will you be on September 15, 2016? We hope you will join in our exciting 50<sup>th</sup> birthday/anniversary celebration. Whether you attend regularly, occasionally or have never come to a luncheon, do not miss this special event. Come and bring a friend. Special speakers and guests, door prizes and entertainment await. Make your reservation with Karen Balog 330-296-8467. Use the form for luncheon reservations on page 6.

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**LOOKING FOR ARCHIVES by Pat Gynn**

Over the years, there have been a number of people who have kept the Portage County Retired Teachers' archives. We have years and years of clippings, pictures, minutes, and other memorabilia from PCRTA's past. Norm Parks was our last archivist, and he made arrangements to have our archives stored at the Portage County Historical Society. This was a wonderful idea because some of our earliest archives are not included in the archives.

Because this was our 50<sup>th</sup> year, when I began as archivist I began going through the materials and getting them organized by year with the newsletters and scholarship records kept separately. It was then that I realized some of the earliest materials are missing. Can you help me locate any of these materials:

1. *Desktop Newsletters from 1991 to 1999*

2. *Pictures, newspaper clippings, minutes, or other materials from 1966 to 1981.* It would be wonderful if someone has these things stored away in an old file cabinet or closet and would want to donate them to our PCRTA archives. If you know of any of these early records, please call Pat Gynn at 330-678-8423.



**WE NEED DOOR PRIZES FOR THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON- PLEASE CALL RON SNOWBERGER at 330-678-3268. Prizes are due to Ron by September 1, 2016.**  
**PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING JULY 21, 2016, by Carole Stokes**

President Helena Parry thanked greeters Judy Hendershot and Saroj Sutaria; then, welcomed the scholarship recipients and their families, as well as PCRTA members and guests.

Len Suzelis led us in singing *America the Beautiful*.

Kay Wise introduced Mayor Frank Seman, who read a proclamation honoring PCRTA's 50 years of service and more than 2 million volunteer hours. He proclaimed this PCRTA Day. He then presented the proclamation to Kay Wise.

Membership Chair Judy Hendershot announced that she had just received a "gift." ORTA sent a list of all teachers who retired this year—something she had been unable to acquire from other sources.

Edith Scott thanked all who proctor and announced that there will be an orientation meeting on August 11, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. at NEOMED. She introduced guests Sue Hricko and Mary Starbuck from NEOMED.

Community Chair Judy Morgan urged members to please send in their volunteer hours. She also thanked everyone who helped at the GED graduation.

Dave Gynn announced that the September 15 luncheon meeting will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Members can participate by donating a door prize, placing an ad in a special Record Courier supplement, contributing to the scholarship fund and attending the luncheon. The door prizes do not need to be wrapped and should be taken to Ron Snowberger by September 1, 2016.

Georgia Darrah read a thoughtful piece on education followed by a prayer.

Following lunch Dan McCombs presided over the 50/50 and won the cash prize, which he donated to PCRTA. The names of Sally Hershiser, Georgia Darrah and Bill Conroy were drawn, and each chose three books as part of the 50/50. The books were donated by Helena Parry.

Two very interesting collections were displayed. Evelyn Park displayed her husband Norm's collection of arrow heads, and Jim Montiquila displayed his collection of presidential campaign buttons.

Miranda Titko, a previous scholarship winner and now a Field High School teacher, spoke. She thanked PCRTA and gave the scholarship recipients tips based on her teaching experiences.

Jim Montiquila began the program by thanking the program committee and the scholarship committee. The committee presented a program with very entertaining presidential campaign songs and quotations from selected presidents, which he asked the scholarship recipients to respond to.

**The Treasury Report May 1- June 30, 2016, Checking Balance \$4,742.23, Savings Balance \$755.52. Sstifel Balance \$29,764.43**

**LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

**COME JOIN US AT NOON FOR OUR 50<sup>th</sup> YEAR AS PCRTA**

**The September 15, 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:** Beef tips and noodles, penne pasta with cannellini beans and escarole, green beans, parsley 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.



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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 Sept 5, 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)

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT**

**PLEASE BRING ITEMS FOR SAFER FUTURE TO THE SEPTEMBER MEETING- hygiene items, toiletries or give financial support.**

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**SHARE YOUR TEACHING MEMORIES FOR OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY by Pat Gynn**

Teachers have a wealth of memories from their years of working with their students. Many people shared wonderful memories for our 40<sup>th</sup> year Memory Book. Now we would like to have your memories, funny experiences and poignant experiences from your years in teaching, your growth as a teacher, or anything you think others may be interested in reading. Please change any names to protect the students. Send your memories to Pat Gynn by email at [patgynn@aol.com](mailto:patgynn@aol.com) or mail them to me at 4210 Lancaster Lane, Kent, OH 44240. Then come to our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration to see what wonderful memories your fellow teachers had from their years as teachers.



## **SOCIAL/TRAVEL NEWS**

### **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA**

Join us to hear the Kent State University Orchestra Concert on **Friday, October 28, 2016**, at **7:30 p.m.** at Cartwright Hall Terrace Dr., Kent, OH, off route 59. The cost is **\$10.00**.

Send your check **payable to PCRTA** to Teresa Schoettler 316 Woodward Ave. Kent, OH 44240. Registration is due by Oct. 14, 2016. Teresa's phone is 330-673-3099.

Prior to the concert, dinner will be at the Pufferbelly Restaurant 152 Franklin Ave. Kent, OH at **5:30 p.m. (Individual checks for meals)**

### **WESTERN RESERVE BAND CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 11, 2016**, the Western Reserve Band Concert will be presented **at 4:00 p.m.** at the Hudson First Congregational Church at 47 Aurora St., Hudson, OH. This is a free will offering concert.

Dinner will follow the concert at Zeppé's at 5843 Darrow Rd. (Rt. 91), Hudson.

Dinner reservations should be called into Ken Grandville at 330-626-2154 or to Kay Wise at 330-297-1110.

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## **MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot**



*Judy Hendershot*

Have you ever stopped to reflect on the many benefits your memberships in PCRTA/ORTA offer? There are benefits for you that include the representation of ORTA that guaranteed you that COLA raise in this year's paycheck. Our ORTA voice is working right now to delay an Affordable Health Care tax hike that will impact many of us as senior retirees who itemize medical expenses on our tax returns. And, in case you haven't heard, there are new and exciting benefits offered by AMBA (Association Members Benefits Advisors) to ORTA members. They are easy to check out right now at [orta.org](http://orta.org).

Have you considered how your membership benefits others? The more our membership grows, the more we are able to contribute to others in our Portage County community. Consider the money that we raise for our scholarship fund each year through our volunteer hours at NEOMED. Think of the many people who are now assisted because of our involvement in Habitat for Humanity. And don't discount the many bimonthly service projects that Judy Morgan organizes and manages that included Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Center of Hope, Akron Children's Hospital, as well as support for school supplies and hats, gloves and scarves in the fall and winter.

Your dual membership is a "win/win" situation. Many thanks. If you have yet to re-up for 2016, please consider doing that right now.

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) 2016 means that  
local dues are paid through 2016and  
would be due at this time in 2017.

[www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net)

Karen Balog

Connie Evans



Webmasters

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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**