

## THE DESKTOP

A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association  
Volume 25 Issue 5 October-December 2016



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### **STEPHANIE LAMMLEIN TO SPEAK AT PCRTA NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> LUNCHEON**

After earning a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences from Hiram College in Ohio, Stephanie Lammlein pursued a career in teaching. Taking her first job in Cincinnati, Ohio, at White Oak Middle School, she later transitioned into the high school setting starting at Colerain High School and then Rootstown High School; teaching biology and environmental science, along with other life science elective courses for 16 years.



*Stephanie Lammlein*

With a strong desire to elevate her teaching she continued her own education, earning a Masters of Arts in Teaching Biological Sciences from Miami University. Knowing that maintaining her learning will enhance her teaching, she continues enriching her expertise through graduate course work. These courses deal with bioinformatics, genomics, evaluation measures, professional learning communities, differentiated instruction, problem and project based learning, baldrige training and technology.

Deep commitment to her students drives Stephanie to create curricular experiences and projects that push students to strive for a greater understanding of the sciences. Understanding that the K-12 education system is under a microscope and seeking new innovative approaches to teaching in this global community are two of Stephanie's driving forces to keep exploring new approaches to instruction in order to achieve maximum retention of knowledge.

Currently, Stephanie is the CAO of the Bio-Med Science STEM Academy. The Academy, located on NEOMED's campus in Rootstown, Ohio, opened in August 2012 with a freshman class of 71 students.

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### **THE DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> PCRTA LUNCHEON PROGRAM WILL FEATURE THE COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE DIRECTED BY JULIE STREBLER- See page 7.**

Community Service project for **November:** bring non-perishable food items or cash donations. For **December:** bring children's hats, mittens, scarves or other winter items for the Clothing Center.

### **ANNIVERSARY DOOR PRIZES by Dave Gynn**

Portage County Retired Teachers would like to recognize the donors who contributed door prizes for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Heartfelt thanks to:

Acme Stores; Barrel Run Crossing Winery; Beauty Lounge East; Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders; Diamonds From The Attic; Discount Drug Mart; Jill Fankhauser, Clerk of Courts Candidate; Field Restaurant; Garden Club of Kent; Giant Eagle Streetsboro; Guido's Ravenna; Home Town Bank; Jason's Barber Shop; Karen's Hair Design; Mike Kerrigan, County Commissioner Candidate; NEOMED Wellness Center; Outback Steak House; Popped!!; Portage County Clothing Center; Pufferbelly Restaurant Ltd.; Ravenna Auto Body; Ravenna City Gardener and Florist; Record Courier; Staple's Streetsboro; John Stephens D.C. Pain Recovery and Window Box Florist.



We would also like to acknowledge the advertisers in the special edition insert, without whom the publication would not have been possible, and recognize Kelly Contini, Record Courier advertising department. Thanks to: PARTA, Signature Smiles, Mike McClure and HW Chervenik Realtors, Guido's of Ravenna, Bennett Land Title Agency and American Monument and Granite Co. We appreciate the efforts of Chad Murphy, the extremely talented editor who created the special edition

Please take the opportunity to patronize these donors and thank them for their contributions.

Many of the door prizes were contributed by board members and friends, who also deserve a round of thanks: Karen Balog, Wendy Cooley, Marge Conroy, Denise Craig, Georgia Darrah, Pat Eichler, Connie Evans, Pat Farley, Jan Fencil, Dave Gynn, Pat Gynn, Judy Hendershot, Sheri Humm, Elaine Lumley, Dan McCombs, Judy Morgan, Helena Parry, Edith Scott, Teresa Schoettler, Jan Snowberger, Ron Snowberger, Carole Stokes and Kay Wise

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### **TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP by Dave Gynn**

A big yellow school bus is a reminder that you are retired, you won't go to school today and you need to pay your dues. Now is the time to renew your membership for 2017. Look at the address label on your newsletter. If it says "life" - Thank you for your loyalty and congratulations on being a wise investor. If it says "2016" - Your dues for 2017 are now due. Membership dues are collected between July and December for the following year. If it says "2017" - Your dues are paid for next year. The code S stands for state (ORTA); the code P stands for Portage (PCRTA).

If you receive your newsletter via email, check with the treasurer (330-678-8423) about your membership status. Annual dues are \$40 - \$30 for ORTA and \$10 for PCRTA. Send a check made payable to PCRTA. All dues should be sent to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Ln, Kent, OH 44240. Your state dues will be forwarded to ORTA. Your annual dues can be converted to a life membership. PCRTA life membership is \$150. ORTA is \$500 and can be made in payments. Contact ORTA (877-431-7002) for details.

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### **SALVATION ARMY NEEDS BELL RINGERS AT COLLECTIONS KETTLES**

Can you spare a few hours to volunteer to help bell ring for the Salvation Army of Portage County? Three inside places to ring are at the Acme in Kent and the Giant Eagle in Ravenna and in Streetsboro. Other sites are outdoors. Tell them you are with the Portage County Retired Teacher Association, and they will schedule you indoors if that is your request. Collection begins the day after Thanksgiving and ends until Christmas Eve.

We were informed that \$12,000 was collected through the kettle donations last year. Think how much food and supplies can be given to the needy with that amount of money. Please call Bonnie Schubert at the Salvation Army office in Ravenna at 330-296-7371 if you can help. Thanks in advance.

## **PCRTA 50<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION**

The PCRTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was a wonderful event! Jack Hurd entertained us with delightful piano music during the gathering of guests and through-out the luncheon. One hundred and five people attended with smiling faces enjoyed the events of the day. Folks, too, enjoyed the many and varied door prizes given by members and/or local businesses. The speaker, Jim Schilling, a retired school teacher and principal, took us back in time when people had to wear the dunce hat for wrongdoing or received various forms of physical interruptions in their lessons. The food catered by Sam Guido was very good. Thanks to Ria Mastromatio for making the programs; Connie Evans for the power point presentations; Len Zuzelis for leading the songs; Dave Gynn and his committee for planning all the details; Kay Wise for arranging for all of the proclamations; Phyllis Spangler and her calling committee for calling all of our members inviting them to attend; Judy Hendershot, Marge Conroy and Helena Parry for the table centerpieces; Ron Snowberger and his committee for processing and organizing the door prizes; Georgia Darrah for getting the speaker; Dan McCombs for handling the 50/50 which brought in \$240.00 since Georgia donated back her half that she won; Karen Balog for the reservations and name tags; the Elks for the use of their building; Dave Gynn for getting advertising sponsors for our 12 page print-out for PCRTA by the Record Courier; Pat Gynn for her display of our archival items Judy Morgan for Community Service; and to any and all who helped to make this event so special. Thanks to our special guests, John Cavanagh, ORTA Director; Carol Kinsey, District X1 Director; Matt Leedom, printer broker and distribution manager of our postal mail newsletter; our Lake County RTA members who attended; our 102 year old most senior member, Virginia Mills. There are several very nice door prizes left, and they will be used at the Nov. 50/50.



*Ron Snowberger & Jim Schilling with his hickory stick*



*Phyllis Spangler & John Gwinn*



*Dave Gynn, Ron, Dan McCombs, Denise Craig*



*Karen Sawitke, Carol Kinsey, & Terri Herbert*



## ***PCRTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration continued***



*Jack Hurd retired music teacher and administrator from Kent City Schools provided music throughout the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party.*



Pat Gynn is receiving the proclamation presented by Kay Wise given by Kathleen Clyde to the PCRTA. Pat organizes and collects the PCRTA archives and houses them at the Portage County Historical Society.



Enjoying the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration are, left to right, Carol Fesemyer Rudlosky, Arthur (Art) Fesemyer, Kenneth Bliss, Adele Fussner, (behind) William Fussner, and Nancy Bliss.

Kenneth and Nancy Bliss provide a scholarship each year for a selected student who is interested in the field of education.

Earlier in the year Art received a *Life Time Achievement Award in Education* from the Kiwanis Club of Ravenna for all of his years of service as a teacher and administrator in education.



## MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

**NOVEMBER 17, 2016: SCHOOLS OF TODAY**

**DECEMBER 15, 2016: CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Cost:** \$14 per person

**Buffet Luncheon:** 12:00 noon

RAVENNA ELKS CLUB, 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266

You may pay for **EITHER or BOTH** of these luncheons by mailing to:

Karen Balog, 516 E. Main Street, Ravenna, OH 44266.

Call or Text (330) 212-3145 or e-mail: [pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com](mailto:pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com)

Please **make checks payable to PCRTA** and remit payment by the dates listed for the luncheons. *Please notify us of cancellations by these Reservations Due dates for credit to be applied to a future luncheon or donated to the scholarship fund.* List your e-mail address for a confirmation.

Please list all names clearly (for name tags.) Indicate if any names listed are new members and if you want a vegetarian menu.

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail or phone \_\_\_\_\_

### **NOVEMBER 17, 2016 - SCHOOLS OF TODAY**

**Your guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu:** Thanksgiving Dinner of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, vegetable, bread & butter, pumpkin or fruit pie

**Service Project:** Center of Hope (Non-perishable foods & donations)



➡ **Reservations Due:** November 10, 2016      **Number of November Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **DECEMBER 15, 2016 - CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Your guests:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Menu:** Italian Feast of cavatelli, meat roll, baked Italian chicken, potatoes, salad, bread & butter, dessert

**Service Project:** County Clothing Center (Children's hats, gloves, & winter items)



➡ **Reservations Due:** December 8, 2016      **Number of December Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

For \_\_\_\_\_ Reservations @ \$14 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT SUBMITTED**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER 2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **Scholarship Treasury Report:**

Checking Account Balance	\$4,830.85
Savings Account Balance	\$755.52
Stifel Balance 7-31-16	\$52,507.13

### **PCRTA TREASURY REPORT:**

Checking Account Balance	\$4,281.02
Stifel Balance 7-31-16	\$30,664.07
Savings Account Balance	\$14,003.33



*Dave Gynn*



*Darlene Fetterhoff*

**Jim Montaquila** reported that the scholarship committee has revised the scholarship application and added an Intent Statement to be signed by the student and his or her parents.

**Dan McCombs** donated \$20.00 to purchase a device to switch back and forth between a video and power point.

**Denise Craig** reported that she has been writing thank you notes for the door prizes.

**Dave Gynn** presented a giant check which represents PCRTA volunteer hours that will be later presented to the County Commissioners.

**Legislative Chair Dan McCombs** announced that there would not be any government pension offset legislation considered.

**Archival Chair Pat Gynn** reported that she has completed several notebooks of archives with items dating from 1982 to 2016. Included in these archives are PCRTA newsletters, clippings, meeting minutes, PCRTA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary scrapbook, PCRTA Memory book, ORTA Quarterlies, ORTA Chapter Handbook and more.

**Nominations Chair Jan FencI** announced that elections for president, corresponding secretary and assistant treasurer occur in even-numbered years for PCRTA. These elections are held at the annual meeting in November. The committee nominations for 2016 include:

President: Helena Parry, who has graciously agreed to continue as president pro tempore until the committee finds a replacement.

Assistant Treasurer: Darlene Fetterhoff

Corresponding Secretary: Denise Craig

**Protective Services Chair Kay Wise** announced that the last AARP Smart Driver Program for 2016 is November 17. She explained the **NEOMED College of Pharmacy Community Educator Program** and said if anyone is interested to contact: Patti J. Pfeifer

phone 330-325-6390

e-mail [ppfeifer@neomed.edu](mailto:ppfeifer@neomed.edu)

### **Social/Travel Chair John Kerstetter announced the upcoming events:**

#### **Friday, October 28 – KSU Orchestra Concert**

Time: Dinner at Pufferbelly (individual checks) 5:00 PM

Cost \$10 – Reservations due by October 15 payable to PCRTA

Coordinator: Terry Schoettler – 330-673-3099- 316 Woodard Ave. Kent, OH 44240

#### **Sunday, December 18 Western Reserve Holiday Band Concert**

Time 4:00PM at First Congregational Church 47 Aurora St. Hudson, OH

No cost for the concert.

Dinner at Zepppe's following the concert (individual checks)

5843 Darrow Rd. (Rt. 91) Hudson, OH

Coordinations: Ken Granville for concert

Kay Wise for dinner reservation: 330-297-1110



## **Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Pharmacy Community Educator** by Kay Wise

The Northeast Ohio Medical University College of Pharmacy is looking for active, older adults who live independently in the community and are willing to share their health experiences with first year pharmacy students.

In order for pharmacists to effectively connect with patients to identify, resolve and prevent drug therapy problems, they must possess a solid clinical knowledge base and strong problem solving skills. In addition, the pharmacist must have the ability to recognize personal and social issues that affect medication use, value responsibility and trustworthiness and display a caring spirit. Pharmacy students, therefore, need to learn not only the “science” primarily taught in the classroom, but also the personal and environmental issues that are most effectively learned through direct interaction with the people they will one day be helping.

The goal of this program is to give students a chance to develop a longitudinal relationship with an older adult who continues to be active in his/her community and can provide friendly feedback to the student on professionalism, communication and basic skills. Hopefully, the volunteers will benefit from the students’ activities and gain a better understanding of the role pharmacists serve in health care.

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## **PCRTA DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup> LUNCHEON PROGRAM AT THE ELKS FEATURES THE COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE**

If you like to listen to Christmas music, you will not want to miss the PCRTA December 15<sup>th</sup> luncheon at the Elks in



Ravenna. The Coventry High School Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Julie Strebler, will be joining us.

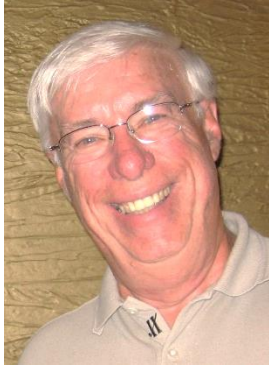
The 24 students became members of the chamber ensemble after auditioning and being selected for the group.

During the year, the students provide a variety of music for various events. They perform throughout their community, providing holiday concerts, crowd-pleasing spring pops concerts and doing serious choral literature for some events. They also participate in OMEA Large Group Adjudicated Event each year and have received superior ratings.

Julie Strebler, a graduate of Southeast High School, has many fond memories of the teachers who influenced her, some of whom are members of PCRTA. Julie said, “My dear, dear mother is a member of your organization. I have taught at Coventry for 15 years now and truly love it. “

## **LEGISLATURE** by Dan McCombs

Where did the summer go? As I inch along on bleeding knuckles at glacial speed, I watch the legislature and the Federal Government continue to amaze and confound me. I can't wait for this fall's elections to be over. I hope we will be able to pick up the pieces no matter what the results are.



*Dan McCombs*

Carol Kinsey, our District Director, has sent me a lot of information to share with you. First of all for 2017, members who are not yet of Medicare age are going to see significant increases in premiums. For Medicare recipients, Aetna will be increased from \$117 to \$127 per month. If you have Aultcare, the premium will increase \$50 per month to \$225. Also the phase out of the Medicare subsidy is set to begin.

If you are a member of STRS that carries his or her health care coverage through STRS, you should expect a letter from Express Scripts. In 2017, Express Scripts is going to a preferred provider plan. You can still go to any pharmacy of choice, but if that pharmacy is not on the preferred provider list, you will be charged \$10 more per prescription than if you used one of the approved ones. So far CVS and Walgreens are not on the preferred list.

Remember, STRS is mandated to pay our pensions, but not health care.. The only money that is now going into the Health Care Fund is from investment earnings. The money for health care will not last long.

A calendar has been laid out for the upcoming year showing the timeline and process leading up to a March decision regarding how health care will look long term and what will be implemented beginning in 2019. That will give you a two year window to know what will or will not be available through STRS and allow you time to plan accordingly. Consider attending one of the regional STRS Health Care Update meetings which will take place in October and November. You can find the list of locations on the STRS website and register there or call STRS.

This is only the tip of the iceberg in what promises to be an interesting legislative future. Stay Tuned!!!

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## **BECOME AN ELECTION OFFICIAL**

Portage County Board of Elections is looking for individuals who can dedicate their time to giving back to their community by becoming a precinct election official. Every Election Day, nearly 550 citizens answer the call to staff 130 precincts, and they want you to be one of them. Precinct election officials make sure that our elections are fair and impartial, and conducted according to Ohio law.

You are eligible if you are registered to vote in Portage County, read and speak English clearly, attend a 2-hour paid training class and are available on Election Day from 5:45 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (with a one-hour lunch break). You will receive \$20 for training and \$120 for serving on Election Day. Retired teachers make excellent precinct election officials.

Sign up or request more information from the Portage County Board.

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## **NEW MEMBERS** by Judy Hendershot

Please welcome our newest members. Regina Ekechi retired from Kent City Schools and Cathy Stemen from Morrow County. Both attended our 50th anniversary luncheon celebration. Membership renewals are due now. Let us count you in.



## **NEOMED STUDENTS- RUN FREE CLINIC**

The clinic opens Saturday, September 17, and will be open two Saturdays a month. One Saturday per month will be dedicated to primary care. One Saturday will provide medication management and education.

The location for this clinic is the NEW Center at NEOMED.

The phone number is 330-578-4448.

The email is clinic @outreach.org.

The services offered are: primary care, chronic disease management, regular routine care, physical exams, basic labs and prescriptions for medications.

The eligibility is: anyone who is unable to afford proper healthcare, as we believe in not limiting our resources to only those without insurance. Patients will be asked to sign a form disclosing their inability to afford healthcare prior to being seen.

The clinic will provide high quality, non-emergency, no-cost healthcare to the medically underserved residents of Northeast Ohio. For more information, please contact the number or the email above.

Teachers, if you know of someone who needs this service, please pass this information along to them.

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## **JUST A LITTLE NUN-SENSE JOKE**

Sister Marry was truly a religious woman. Besides for her duties as a nun, she was also very active in various hospitals visiting sick patients and taking care of all their needs.

So it was no surprise that one day when she ran out of gas, the only container she could find to put the gas into was a bedpan. Sister Mary happily walked two blocks to the closest gas station, filled up the bedpan with gas and headed back to her car.



Luck would have it that as Sister Mary started tipping the gas into the fuel tank, the traffic light turned red and she had quite a large audience witnessing the spectacle.

Just when she finished pouring in the last drops of gas a fellow opened up his window and hollered, "I swear! If that car starts, I'm becoming a religious man!"

## 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=Life Membership  
Year=Dues paid through.  
Example: S2016P2016=  
state and local dues paid through  
2016  
and are now due for 2017



Karen Balog

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



Connie Evans

Webmasters

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## 2017 PCRTA/ ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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