

THE DESKTOP

*A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association
Volume 25 Issue 2 April-May 2017*



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PAT RULLO SPEAKER AT PCRTA MAY 18, 2017, LUNCHEON

Book Signing and Presentation

Book is endorsed by the U.S. Army Medical Department Office of Quality Management

A visit to a hospital is almost inevitable. You may be the patient, or you may tend to a loved one who requires a hospital stay. Medical errors are the third leading cause of death in the United States, making the hospital a dangerous place to be. Every year, nearly 2 million hospital-acquired infections claim roughly 100,000 lives.

Why do these things happen? What can you do about them?

Discover where and how the dangers can find you.

Learn how to prevent life-threatening infections.

Avoid hospital hazards and safely navigate your way back home.



Pat Rullo

Meet Cleveland, Ohio, author and radio host, Pat Rullo, as she shares healthcare and hospital safety tips. Listen every Saturday morning at 9:00 on

WHKW AM1220 or WHKZ AM1440 and Sunday evening at 6:00 on WHK AM1420

Fun, fast paced and jam-packed with serious information, delivered with humor and wit.

**Thursday, May 18, 2017, at 11:30
Portage County Retired Teachers Association Luncheon**

Books will be available at discounted price of \$20. Proceeds will benefit The Sewport

Project, sending handmade pillowcases to homeless veteran shelters, women and children's domestic abuse homes and animal rescue shelters.

www.thesewportproject.com

MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot

An important goal of any healthy organization is to increase its membership and active participation. Many of you have been long time members of PCRTA/ORTA, and many of you have helped to increase membership by encouraging friends and colleagues to join us in our ongoing endeavor to protect our STRS benefits.

As you well know, those benefits continue to be assailed from many directions. We have no choice but to take a proactive stance to protect what we have, and strength in numbers is still the best option. A new initiative recently begun by ORTA promotes membership across the state thru social media accounts: Twitter, websites, and FaceBook. ORTA reports the concept has begun to increase one to two new memberships each day.

At a recent ORTA District XI Leadership meeting, our president, Helena Parry, proposed that a letter be sent to our state organization requesting that each chapter be provided with a list of new retirees by county every year, thereby giving us a far greater access to perspective members. Although we collaborate with public school superintendents in Portage County and depend on them to share the names of teachers planning to retire each year, those lists are not all inclusive. We are hopeful that ORTA will accede to the request made by the leadership group.

Thank you to all who have recently renewed your 2017 memberships and to those who have chosen new life memberships.



Judy Hendershot

LEGISLATIVE by Dan McCombs

I can't believe it is already Spring. It seems that the election season occurred many months ago. Day after day we see new headlines about what is or isn't happening in Washington. It truly makes me wonder where we will be as a country over the next few years. We must get America to put party politics aside and do what is best for the country.

STRS reports that the Ohio Legislature passed Amended Substitute H.B.520. The bill included a measure that will allow benefits to be paid to a surviving child - regardless of their status in school - until age 22. It is interesting to note that The Ohio Retirement Study Council did not meet in January or February. The Council is made up of three members of the House, three members of the Senate and three gubernatorial appointees. The chairmanship of the council will reside in the House during the current General Assembly. The chair will be Senator Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City).



Dan McCombs

So far the language of the Kasich budget does not appear that STRS Ohio is directly affected. STRS will continue to monitor what is going on and will provide updates to us.

Here is hoping that things settle down, and we get through a very contentious future of Health Care.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM – 2017

Sponsored by the Tallmadge Recreation Department

This new 4 hour smart driver course (formerly driver safety) is open to all licensed drivers age 50 and older. New concepts are provided to better compensate for age related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. 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 sessions. Course Fee: \$15.00 for AARP member or \$ 20.00 for non-member.

Please note registration and the classes are held at the:

**Tallmadge Community Center
80 Community Road
Tallmadge, OH 44278
330-633-5610**

A total of four (4) hour classes are scheduled for 2017 and are from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

~~Thursday February 23, 2017~~
Thursday May 25, 2017
Thursday August 17, 2017
Thursday November 16, 2017

Registration is limited and pre-registration is needed. Please complete the registration form below and mail or drop off with your payment to the Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Rd, located next to Tallmadge Library.

Make Check / Money Order payable to AARP. DO NOT SEND CASH!

Please have your valid driver's license with you at the class.
Please complete the form below and return with your payment.
(Keep the top portion for your records.)

AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM FOR 2017

~~Thursday February 23, 2017~~ Thursday, August 17, 2017
 Thursday, May 25, 2017 Thursday, November 16, 2017

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ Zip Code _____

Name _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ Zip Code _____

Enclosed is a check / money order, PAYABLE TO AARP, in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above named participant(s). I understand the fee is non-refundable, unless the department cancels the seminar. DO NOT SEND CASH.

Signature _____ Date _____

PCRTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MARCH 9, 2017

Members present: Helena Parry, Georgia Darrah, Dave Gynn, Pat Gynn, Carole Stokes, Denise Craig, Judy Morgan, Judy Hendershot, Edith Scott, Saroj Sutaria, Kay Wise, Karen Balog, Sandy Kerstetter, Connie Evans

President Helena Parry called the 501c3 meeting to order. She read Scholarship Chair Jim Montaquila's report, which stated that applications for the 2017 PCRTA scholarships were hand delivered to all of the Portage County high schools. Kay, Ria, and Darlene helped Jim deliver them to all of the guidance counselors and principals. Last Friday he sent postcards to all of the guidance counselors reminding them that the due date for the applications is Friday, April 7. After that the committee will meet to make the selections.

501c3 Scholarship Treasury Report January 1 – February 28, 2017

Prepared by Darlene Fetterhoff; given by Dave Gynn.

Checking Account Balance \$7,059.32
Savings Account Balance \$15,660.61
Stifel Balance (end of 2016) \$54,470.91

Note: See the website for the full report.

Kay Wise made a motion to adjourn the 501c3 meeting. It was seconded by Denise Craig. The motion passed.

President Helena Parry called the 501c4 meeting to order.

Recording Secretary Carole Stokes corrected the January 17, 2017, minutes to read as follows: There are 208 life members of both ORTA and PCRTA. There are 15 life members in PCRTA with an annual membership in ORTA and 11 life members in ORTA with an annual membership in PCRTA. Edie Scott made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Karen Balog. The motion passed.

Corresponding Secretary Denise Craig reported that she wrote an apology note to Rudy Bachna. In addition, she contacted Dick Ruch about helping on the Pre-Retirement Workshop Committee. He wants to do "hands on" activities. She also sent "notify now" to all members about POP 5. She said that the cost should be about \$23.33.

Treasurer Dave Gynn gave the PCRTA Treasury Report January 1 – February 28, 2017

Checking Balance \$3,486.84
Savings Balance \$905.95
Stifel Balance \$32,161.94

Note: See the PCRTA website for the full report.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES continued

Vice President Georgia Darrah reported that all of the programs for this year have been set up and placed on our calendar. The speaker for the March program has been changed to Alan Kearns.

Dave Gynn reported on the Five Year Strategic Planning Proposal. He said the Restructuring Committee researched the organization in other states, which resulted in 14 suggestions to make it more convenient and efficient. The committee feels the need to replace the current by-laws.

Helena Parry gave the ORTA Trustee Report in which she stated that John Cavanaugh's focus is to use electronics to communicate. She reported that over 217 newsletters were mailed, and in March over 200 were emailed. She announced that May 9 is the ORTA 70th anniversary at the Columbus zoo.

Community Service Chair Judy Morgan announced that the project for May is the Coleman Center with donations of craft items: markers, coloring books, colored paper, paints, colored pencils, etc.

Membership Chair Judy Hendershot stated that she has nearly completed phone calls to all 40 members who had not renewed their memberships. Five have paid their dues, and one life member of PCRTA inquired about being a life member of ORTA.

Sunshine/Memorial Chair Judy Hendershot said that "Connie Evans and Karen Balog have created an outstanding Power Point program featuring (11) eleven members who have passed away since last year. To date two family members have responded that they will attend: Pat Bateman and Kathy Lilley. Letters inviting family members of those to be honored were mailed in early February. There were five deceased members who had no local contacts." Judy also said that Patty Miller has volunteered to assume some responsibilities for the Sunshine Committee.

NEOMED Proctoring Chair Edie Scott stated that she needs a few more people in the near future.

Protective Services Chair Kay Wise reported that she and her husband Ralph participated in the AARP Driver Safety Program in Tallmadge and saved \$77.00 on their car insurance. She also announced that St. Patrick's Day weekend will be the Reed Memorial Library book sale.

Public Relations Chair Georgia Darrah reported that the news release about the March luncheon was published last week. Also the news release alerting high school seniors that they can apply for a PCRTA scholarship if they are planning to go into education should be in the newspaper soon.

Social/Travel Chair Sandy Kerstetter reported that so far 18 have signed up for the play "Jesus Christ Superstar" on April 1.

Webmaster Connie Evans said that she has added a plug to make the site more convenient.

Kay Wise made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Denise Craig. The motion carried.

IN MEMORY

Thomas A. Campana, 93, died Wednesday, March 15, 2017. Tom was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1946. He received his Masters in Education Administration from Kent State University. Besides other places Tom's longest employment was with the Kent City School District as a teacher, coach and then the Athletic Director. Tom retired in 1984. Tom was a great family man, mentor and a friend to many. He was a lifetime member of PCRTA/ORTA.



Thomas Campana

Lowell Myers, 88, died February 21, 2017. Lowell received a Masters in Education from Kent State University 1956. He loved his family and had a great passion for teaching and education. After other positions in the field of education, Lowell became superintendent of Streetsboro City Schools from 1967-1973. Then he became superintendent of Maplewood Career Center, where he planned and oversaw the construction. Lowell served in several community and civic organizations as well. Lowell was a lifetime member of PCRTA/ORTA.



Lowell Myers

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MARCH PCRTA LUNCHEON AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

President Helena Parry welcomed everyone and thanked greeters Kay Wise and Saroj Sutaria. In addition, she welcomed guest Kathy Lilley and speaker Alan Kearns of AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors). Helena thanked Judy Hendershot, Connie Evans and Karen Balog for planning the tribute to members who passed away within the last year.

Proctoring Chair Edith Scott thanked all the proctors and recognized them with a show of hands. She said she needs more proctors so there will be a new orientation soon. She announced that on May 25 there will be a Proctor Appreciation program to celebrate the 10th year of PCRTA proctoring.

Following a delicious luncheon, Judy introduced the memorial by reading a reflection about life. Connie narrated the outstanding tribute. The following members were remembered:

Garnet Byrnes, Constance Mellott, Daryl Bateman, Flora Carlton (98), Martha Hatcher, John Lilley, Betty Parks, David Wilson, Joanne Newhauser, Lowell Myers and Rhea Merrell (108). Following the memorial, Judy presented Kathy Lilley with a memorial book.

Georgia Darrah introduced the speaker, Alan Kearns, Regional Vice President of AMBA. Although membership in ORTA is required, there is no cost to be a part of AMBA. Alan stressed that the benefits available to members are a result of heavily negotiated group rates. In addition to all of the health and financial benefits, there are restaurant discounts available at the ORTA website. Sandy Stefanik won the 50/50.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM FOR MAY 18, 2017

NOTE: NEW PLACE, NEW TIME, NEW PRICE \$15.00, with GUIDO CATERING

The PCRTA May 18, 2017, luncheon will now be at **The Kent American Legion Post** 496 at 1945 Mogadore Rd. Kent, Ohio 44240 off Rt. 261.

Park and enter at the rear of the building. **Doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

The Business Meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch following. Menu: meat loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, tossed salad, bread, butter, dessert, coffee, tea, water and lemonade. Bar will be open to purchase beverages as well.

The Speaker Program will follow the luncheon.

_____ **cut here** _____

Number of reservations _____ Phone: _____

Names _____

Enclosed at \$15.00 per luncheon _____

Enclosed extra for scholarship _____

Mail your check payable to PCRTA by **May 8, 2017**, to Karen Balog at 516 E. Main St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Phone: 330-212-3145. Email: pcrtaluncheon@gmail.com

COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR MAY. The Clothing Center was very pleased with our donations from last month. For **May** please bring **items for the Kevin Coleman Center for their arts, crafts, and drawing therapy projects:** crayons, markers, glue, drawing paper, coloring books, colored paper, water color paints and water color paper, sissors, rulers, acrylic paints in small bottles, newspaper, small artistic paint brushes and more.

SOCIAL AND TRAVEL: Porthouse- July 2017 “Ain’t Misbehaven.” Dinner before at Sarah’s Vineyard. Date to be announced later. John and Sandy Kerstetter Coordinators. **Check the ORTA website or call ORTA for the May 5, 2017, 70th Anniversary of the ORTA day at the Columbus Zoo.**

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.



Karen Balog

www.pcrta.net



Connie Evans

Webmasters

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 _____
Scholarship donation _____
PCRTA Life Membership =\$150.00 _____
ORTA Life Membership =\$500.00 _____
Total of check amount _____

Make check payable to PCRTA. Complete the form and mail both to:
Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240