

## THE DESKTOP

A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association  
Volume 25 Issue 2 April-May 2015



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### STEPHANIE CRAWFORD TO SPEAK AT THE MAY LUNCHEON MEETING



Unfortunately, in today's society, we keep hearing more and more cases of attempts being made to scam or fraud unsuspecting individuals. Our May PCRTA luncheon on May 21 will feature guest speaker, Stephanie Crawford, who will be presenting "The Fraud Watch." Stephanie, the Outreach Coordinator Intern for AARP Ohio, will include information on how individuals can inform and protect themselves and their family members from the growing danger and prevalence of scams. We will learn about the top scams in

Ohio, as well as fraud trends and behavior. You will not want to miss this valuable presentation on how best to defend yourself from these attempts.

### FRAUD WATCH NETWORK submitted by Kay Wise, PCRTA Protective Services Chairperson

Dave Gynn gave me a pamphlet titled *The Con Artist's Playbook: The Psychology Behind ID Theft, Fraud & Scams*. The pamphlet includes Watchdog Alerts/Tips & Resources/Free for Everyone. Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus started AARP to protect the financial security of older Americans.

Watchdog Warnings from this pamphlet: 1) Always wait 24 hours for the excitement of a sales presentation to wear off and to give you time to check out the company and product. 2) Never engage a stranger in a dialogue about your personal life. 3) Virtually all lotteries, prizes and sweepstakes offers that require payment to win are scams.

4) Whenever you get approached with an offer that is available only for a limited time or is in limited supply, beware! 5) If you are being harassed by con artists, call the police and file a report, change your phone number or screen your calls with an answering machine.



Kay Wise

For more information about the latest scams, go to [aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork](http://aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork).



Frank & Michael Barrett

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING ON MARCH 9, 2015**

Greeters were Joann Stikes and Kay Wise. Several family members of deceased members were present for the Memorial Program.

We welcomed new PCRTA/ORTA member Melissa Habowski, daughter of Joanna Cardinal and the late Ken Cardinal.

Dave Gynn announced that our chapter **is not currently in the top ten** in numbers, therefore we need more people to join to keep a trustee.

President Helena Parry asked for members to sign up to work the fifth Fridays at the Ravenna Clothing Center.

Kay Wise asked for people to sign up for some of the six different upcoming social events planned by the revised Social Travel Committee headed by John and Sandy Kerstetter.

Ron Snowberger asked if anyone else would like to attend the ORTA Conference in Columbus on April 23, 2015.

Judy Morgan thanked everyone for bringing goods for the Animal Protective Shelter of Portage County. She also thanked members for their 17,000 volunteer hours.

Helena thanked Connie Evans for the wonderful slide show honoring our deceased members. She also thanked Pat Gynn for the table display of memorial pictures and obituaries of deceased members.

The speaker, Frank Barrett, spoke about the Underground Railroad and the Haines House in Alliance, Ohio. He stated that the Quakers encouraged the freedom of all people. Both Frank and his wife, Michael, are members of the Alliance Area Preservation Society, which owns and maintains the Haines House.

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**Treasurers' Report**

As of Feb. 28, 2015

Checking Balance	\$5,482.38
Savings Balance	\$305.00
Stifel Balance	\$38,251.64
Scholarship Savings Balance	\$6,194.58
Scholarship Checking Balance	\$21,745.35
Scholarship Stifel Balance	\$25,224.92



Dave Gynn



Darlene Fetterhoff

Income: \$2,430.00 Expenses: \$2,249.77

### **Looking Back Again by Pat Gynn, PCRTA Archivist Chairperson**

One of the people included in this year's Memorial Service at the March luncheon was long-time PCRTA member Norman Park. He used to write a monthly column called *Looking Back* for the PCRTA *Desktop* with many interesting stories about his adventures in teaching. We asked his wife, Evelyn, if she could tell us some more things about Norm that people might not know about him. Here are some things she mentioned:

\*\*Norm was an avid vegetable gardener. Not much for flowers, but he enjoyed weeding.

\*\*He collected stamps. He carried on an extensive friendship with other collectors in China, France, Germany, Switzerland and the Philippines by mail. Some of these pen pals visited the Parks in Mantua.

\*\*Norm was a stone mason. After retiring from teaching, he constructed many walls, stairways and "monuments" from the same stones he collected. He also laid slate floors in homes.

\*\*He was a classical music lover. He could identify most pieces of music by his favorite composers just by hearing the first few bars of music. He admired all the classic composers, but Wagner and Mahler were his favorites overall.

And now you know some more of his story.



*Norman Park*

Pat Gynn has offered to become the archivist for the Portage County Retired Teachers Association. This was the job Norm did for many years. Thank you, Pat.

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### **IN MEMORY**

Jane C. Sawyer Hostler died peacefully, February 16, 2015. She retired from the Streetsboro City Schools as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She was a member of the University Parish Newman Center and PCRTA/ ORTA. She was the ultimate host for all of the family gatherings and holidays.

Rebecca Armstrong Perkins Moore passed away at the age of 95 on February 15, 2015. After Rebecca had taught in various places, the family moved to Streetsboro, Ohio, in 1968. She then taught music at the elementary level for Streetsboro City Schools. Some of Rebecca's hobbies included yarn and fabric art, gardening, hiking, biking and tennis. She was a lifetime member of the Delta Omicron Musical Fraternity and a member of PCRTA/ ORTA.

Phyllis J. Hendricks died in February of 2015. Phyllis was a recipient of a Jennings Scholarship award. She loved art and poetry and published three books. She was a member of PCRTA/ ORTA.

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**PLEASE HELP RECRUIT NEW PCRTA MEMBERS. ASK FOLKS YOU KNOW TO JOIN IF THEY ARE NOT CURRENTLY MEMBERS. WE NEED MORE MEMBERS TO KEEP OUR TRUSTEE POSTITON**

Joke: Little Ricky raised his hand to answer, "Who can give me a sentence using I?" He said, "I is." The teacher quickly interrupted him and said, "No Ricky, we always say I am!" So Ricky continued his sentence, "I am the 9<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet."

**MINUTES OF THE PCRTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MARCH 12, 2015**

The January minutes were accepted.

Barb Cribbs sent out invitations to the families of deceased members to invite them to the March luncheon.

Georgia requested \$50.00 to pay the speaker for March.

Dave reported that there is an account that has funds from which committees can request necessary expenditures.



*Ruth Weigand*

PCRTA received donations in memory of Jane Hostler and Rebecca Moore.

Darlene reported that there was a scam on the 990 accounts, so she had to change the pass word.

Archivist, Pat Gynn, is replacing deceased PCRTA member, Norman Park, and recently got the archival items from Evelyn Park.

Judy Hendershot continues to send out get well and sympathy cards to members who we are informed need them.

Scholarship Chairperson, Jim Montiquila, thanked Kay Wise and Darlene Fetterhoff for helping him deliver the scholarship applications to all of the Portage County High Schools. The committee will meet soon to select the winners for scholarships.

A book sale at the July luncheon was approved. One could bring books to the July luncheon meeting.

As part of the Phone Committee, a Care and Concern group was suggested by Darlene Fetterhoff. Dave Gynn offered to recruit people for this group to help Evelyn Park, who is the chairperson of the Phone Committee.

Ron Snowberger, ORTA trustee for PCRTA, reported that he serves on the ORTA's Pre-Retirement Planning Committee. Ron reported that at the February 6 ORTA they examined the purposes, objectives and job description of the local chapter committees. Revisions included resources for chapters and suggestions for hosting an event. Suggestions included working closely with the Membership Committee to follow up with attendees and providing one-year chapter membership to participants.

The Technology Committee stressed the need for a full-time ORTA employee to manage the website, review each chapter website and coordinate social media sources. They suggested that chapters look at using Constant Contact program to communicate with members.

The Membership Committee suggested a more thorough analysis of the membership program which is seeing fewer members every year.

The Public Relations Committee recommended that chapters continue to publicize their events and successes on the website, social media and local newspapers. They recommended a state-wide community service project to increase visibility. They will recommend that the ORTA board adopt Habitat for Humanity with a kickoff in Columbus this fall and implementation of the project throughout 2016. Chapters could promote HFH, volunteer to help with building, serve on the local committee, collect donations or volunteer to work for Restore, hold a shower for new habitat owners and numerous other activities. Chapters could engage active teachers and non-members.

**LEGISLATIVE NEWS** by Dan McCombs

Ann Hanning, our ORTA Executive Director, has been keeping the membership current on happenings with the STRS ad hoc committee established to study the organization's funding policy. Ann has learned that STRS would consider addressing inflation, should it occur in the future, by reviewing the COLA and other pension levers. At the same meeting, Scott DiMauro (Healthcare & Pension Advocates) expressed the desire to see the 1% employer contribution returned to the Health Care Stabilization Fund as soon as possible to insure the sustainability of the program.

In January, Senate President Keith Faber named Senate members to serve on the Ohio Retirement Study Council. They are Senators Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City), who is chairing the Council, Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) and Edna Brown (D-Toledo). The House appointees are Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), Dan Ramos (D-Lorain) and Ron Amstutz (R-Wooster). Keep these names in mind if we need to contact them in the future.



*Dan McCombs*

Finally, we need to pay close attention to the provisions of the segment of the State Budget Bill H.B.64 and Senate Bill 3 that contain language that would allow high-performing school districts, as defined in the legislation, to employ teachers who hold a permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education. H.B.64 would explicitly exempt these teachers from STRS coverage. In other words, these individuals would not be licensed by ODE, and, since STRS Ohio membership is tied to licensure, they would not be covered by the system. Stay tuned!!!

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**NEWS FROM ORTA**

Ann Hanning had a solo appointment with Senator Scott Oelslager on 3/18/15. They discussed concerns about charter schools and their impact school districts and on STRS contributions. Charter school teachers do pay into STRS. Although they pay at the same rate, it is generally on a lower salary amount. They also talked about term limits and the need to continually re-educate legislators about retiree concerns. They talked about the pension systems and the need to continue a healthcare program for retirees.

1. The House Ways and Means Committee heard testimony last week from Rep Ron Gerberry (D-Austintown) on HB 43. Part of this bill would restore the application of the 10% and 2.5 % property tax rollbacks to school levies. Good news for many seniors. Information on current Ohio legislation can be viewed at [www.legislature.ohio.gov](http://www.legislature.ohio.gov)
2. The Ohio House Education Committee held a hearing on HB 2 on community (charter) school accountability. The committee heard testimony and accepted some changes in the bill. Many charter school related items in HB 43 (the budget bill) have been shifted to HB 2.
3. ORTA will soon write a letter to Rep. Jim Renacci (R-Wadsworth) requesting his support for HR 711. HR 711 is the "Brady" bill to change the formula for the WEP which reduces social security benefits for those persons receiving a public pension. Rep Renacci serves on the Congressional House Ways and Means Committee, Social Security subcommittee. This bill has little traction at this time. Ann and others will be in DC in September 2015 at an NRTA advocacy conference and will be visiting Rep. Renacci and other legislators at that time.



**PCRTA LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

**REMINDER OF OUR LOCATION FOR OUR MAY LUNCHEON**  
**May 21, 2015, PCRTA Luncheon will be at The Ravenna Elks**  
**Club 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio - Cost is now \$14.00**  
**On-site cook, David Weidaw, and his staff will be preparing the**  
**luncheon of:** Roast beef, vegetable lasagna, au gratin potatoes,  
smothered green beans, dessert, water, coffee, tea and  
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. Write a V by those wanting a Vegetarian Entrée.

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by May 11, 2015.** Mail your check made out to PCRTA and reservations to:

**PAT FARLEY 5625 State Route 5, Ravenna, OH 44266 - 330-297-0980 patkgtch2@aol.com**

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**BE SURE TO NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS AS THE NEW COOK WANTS THE**  
**NUMBER of people attending ten business days before our luncheon date.**



*Judy Morgan*

The PCRTA Community Service Project for May is to **supply gift cards for the** Big Brother and Sister Organization. Gift cards for gas, groceries, clothing or cash will be greatly appreciated.

Also we want to thank those of you who continue to proctor on a regular basis. Thanks to Edith Scott for coordinating this effort.

A new Community Service Project has been implemented whereby volunteers will work at the Portage County Phyllis Zumkehr Clothing Center on the fifth Friday of the month. These fifth Fridays occur three times for the remainder of 2015. Thanks to those of you who have agreed to volunteer for this project. Call Helena for details at 330-673-0577.

In June PCRTA volunteers will provide and serve refreshments for the Maplewood Career Center. Those wishing to help with this should contact Judy Morgan at 330-653-8174. School Supplies for children will be collected at the July luncheon.

**PCRTA SOCIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES FOR 2015-2016**

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming social events that have been planned by the PCRTA Social Committee. Guests are welcome at all of these events.

Our first event is **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30** when we will be going to The Weathervane Theater in Akron to see the musical *Oklahoma* and to dinner afterward at Papa Joe's. Tickets for the show are \$19 and dinners will be paid for individually at Papa Joe's. Registration forms can be obtained at the meetings, at our website, [www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net), or by calling Wendy Cooley at 330-325-1998.

JUNE 7 - OKLAHOMA AT THE WEATHERVANE THEATER AT 2:30 PM with dinner following at Papa Joe's.

JULY 23 - RUBBER DUCKS vs ALTOONA baseball game at Rubber Ducks Stadium in Akron.

AUGUST 2 - HAIRSPRAY AT PORTHOUSE at 2:00 PM followed by dinner at Sarah's Vineyard.

AUGUST 22 - D-DAY AT CONNEAUT, OHIO BUS TOUR - includes visit to covered bridges and dinner at a vineyard.

OCTOBER (Date to be announced later) KSU ORCHESTRA CONCERT at 3:00 PM with dinner following at The Pufferbelly Restaurant.

NOVEMBER (Date to be announced later) KSU FASHION MUSEUM TOUR with meal following at Bricco's.

DECEMBER (Date to be announced later) WESTERN RESERVE BAND CONCERT AT HUDSON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH with dinner at Zeppe's in Hudson.

JANUARY 2016 LUNCH WITH KSU CHEF



The hard working Social Committee for PCRTA now includes Co-Chairs, John and Sandy Kerstetter, along with Wendy Cooley, Denise Craig, Darlene Fetterhoff, Anita Foote, Ken and Nancy Granville, Terry Schoetler, Dave Gynn, Phyllis Spangler, Saroj Suartia and Kay Wise.

Call John & Sandy Kerstetter at 330-673-0129 with questions.

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**UPDATE YOUR EMAIL** by Helena Parry

Thanks to those of you who sent a response to my email requesting that you send me your name and email address to switch to a newsletter via email. There were 30 emails from the current roster which were undeliverable. If you have not updated your email lately or do not already get the newsletter via email and wish to do so, please email me [hmparry@att.net](mailto:hmparry@att.net). Remember, the newsletter via email helps our operating budget leaving more for money for scholarship and other projects. You get an email from Judy Kirman with a link that the newsletter is ready. You can also get the newsletter at our web site. [www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net)

PCRTA- Portage  
County Retired  
Teachers Association  
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 2014 and  
would be due at this time in 2015.



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

Webmasters- Connie Evans and Karen Balog

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### 2015 PCRTA and 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

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2015 if you have not done so. WE NEED YOU - YOU NEED PCRTA/ORTA.**

**Help us protect our pension and benefits.**