

THE DESKTOP



A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association

Volume 24 Issue 5 Oct. - Dec. 2014



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The November Luncheon Speaker Is Mike Kerrigan

Mike Kerrigan first joined the staff of the President's Office of Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) in October 2011 and currently serves as Community Relations & Special Initiatives Manager.



In this role, Mike's primary function is to develop, implement, manage and evaluate all aspects of the University's community relations activities in support of NEOMED's mission and strategic plan. In doing so, Mike provides professional support for community outreach programs across all university colleges and departments and represents the university's interests as liaison to committees, organizations and community groups both within and outside NEOMED. Mike's work has been instrumental in creating synergistic partnerships with business, government and non-profit organizations at the regional, county and local level--further strengthening NEOMED's town-gown relationship, as well as its stature as a regional economic engine.

Furthermore, Mike directs the implementation of university-wide special initiatives. Of note, Mike is one of the founding (and still active) board members of Bio-Med Science Academy STEM School, the first rural STEM school in Ohio and the first STEM high school on a medical university campus in the nation.

In the community, Mike serves as the vice president of the Rootstown Area Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the board of the Kent Area Chamber of Commerce and the Medina Hospital Community Advisory Board.

Prior to NEOMED, Mike served in both the Capitol Hill and Ohio district offices for a former member of Congress and was previously federal relations associate for The Ohio State University's Washington, D.C. office. Mike holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science: public policy focus from The George Washington University and is in the process of obtaining a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State University. Mike will be speaking about the new programs at NEOMED.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Richard Rymer, a life member of ORTA and PCRTA since 1994, passed away on July 17. He worked for the National Bureau of Standards in California. He was an electronics technical representative to a company in Germany and taught electronics to the German Air Force. Preferring to work with people, he became a psychologist and taught at the University of Akron from 1970 to 1993. He and his wife were active in the Kent Historical Society, several nature organizations and antique car clubs.

Alice Darr passed away August 21, 2014 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born and educated in Illinois, she moved to Ohio to join the Kent State University faculty. She was a coordinator of the Home Economics Ed. Program and co-chair of the KSU commencement committee for 25 years. Alice and her husband, Ralph, also a life member of ORTA and PCRTA, enjoyed traveling, camping and volunteering.

LEGLISTIVE NEWS

Well, here we go again. What happened to the summer months? I have not figured out a way to slow down Old Man Time. Each year seems to go faster and faster. I hope all of you see the need to get involved in the upcoming election. Even if you aren't actively involved, I hope that you at least take the time to vote. Every year it appears that elections are becoming more critical to retired



teachers. Protecting our hard-earned pensions and collective bargaining status will continue to drive our membership. Current teachers are faced with an overwhelming desire on the part of elected officials to tell them what to teach, when to teach and how to teach. I am sure that many of you join me in a desire to bring the welfare of students back to the forefront of the state's educational goals.

Dan McCombs

On a brighter note, as a person who signed an irrevocable waiver several years ago to drop my STRS medical coverage and switch to my wife's PERS insurance, I can now return to STRS since they have recently eliminated this waiver. In either case, the coverage of spouses will undergo a lot of changes in the upcoming years for both STRS and PERS. Keep the faith and best wishes for a new school year. Dan

TREASURERS' REPORT

September 1 Checking Balance	4,362.96
Total Income	1,419.00
Total Expenses	505.68
September 30 Checking Balance	5,276.28

Full report is available - call Dave 330-678-842

SUNSHINE SOCIAL - HARRY LONDON /FANNIE MAY CANDY FACTORY TOUR

Date - DEC. 4, 2014. Time of event -9-12p.m. We will go by carpooling rather by bus. Meet at the **University Plaza at 9:00 a.m. Dec.4.** Make checks for \$5.00 (tour fee) payable to PCRTA and mail by Nov. 17 to the Kerstetters at 2012 Rosewood Dr. Kent, Ohio 44240. Include your phone number, name, and email, if you use email. Lunch is optional at the Chinese Restaurant at the Plaza after we return from the tour.



Portage County Retired Teachers Association - Nominations Report - November 2014- by Jan Fencl

Elections for president, corresponding secretary and assistant treasurer occur in even-numbered years for PCRTA. Elections take place in November. Officers take office on January 1, 2015. They are eligible for re-election.

Our nominations for **2015** include: **President:**Helena Parry



Barb Cribbs

Assistant Treasurer: Darlene Fetterhoff
Corresponding Secretary: Barbara Cribbs
Respectfully submitted,
Jan Fencl, Dan McCombs



Helena Parry



Darleen Fetterhoff



Jan Fencl- Chair

LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM
Thursday, November 20, 2014, AT NOON
AT THE NEW EDUCATION HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER, 2nd Floor AT NEOMED
Across from the Dollar Store
4209 STATE ROUTE 44, ROOTSTOWN, OH

BUFFET MENU: House Salad with Ranch & Italian Dressings, Fresh Baked Rolls & Butter, Broccoli & Cauliflower, Fluffy Egg Noodles, Beef Stroganoff, Italian Baked Chicken Breast, Assorted Desserts, Coffee and Iced Tea.

Number of buffet reservations _____ and names (for name tags) Please print and mark clearly**
Your name and phone number _____



I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$13.00 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 MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY November 13, 2014. Mail your reservations and check made to PCRTA to: **Pat Farley 5625 State Road 5, Ravenna, OH 44266** 330-297- 0980 patkgтч2@aol.com

SANTAS FOR SENIORS - COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT items to bring along to our luncheon for **NOVEMBER** are items for seniors, such as grocery gift cards, bath and body products, personal paper goods, stamps, envelopes, socks, towels, washcloths, warm adult gloves, scarves, detergent, dish soap, cleaning products, playing cards or other board games, puzzles and other things that seniors might enjoy. **There is no need to wrap your donations.**

SUMMARY OF THE PCRTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The minutes from the July Executive Board meeting were approved. The Treasurers' reports in the newsletter will give only balances. If detail is desired, one can contact the Treasurer. Ron Snowberger reported that he completed an audit of the STRS accounts and found that all were excellent.



Ruth Weigand, Secretary

Assistant Director Crystal Shanley and Program Coordinator Kara Vance from the Family and Community Services, presented information about volunteer positions for their new programs. Further information can be found on our web site under volunteer positions for Family and Community Services.

Dan McCombs, Legislative Chairperson, announced "candidates night" sponsored by the PCRTA to be held on Oct. 13 at the Kent Free Library at 11:00 a.m. Richard Brockett will host this meeting.

Ron Snowberger, Trustee, announced that he will attend the ORTA in Columbus on Oct. 16, 2014. Insurance policies and investments will be some the items discussed at this meeting.

Judy Morgan, Community Service Chairperson, announced that we would do *Santas for Seniors* for our November project. She reported 9,153 volunteer hours by our PCRTA members.

Judy Hendershot, Membership & Sunshine Chairperson, stated that she was waiting for the most up-to-date list of ORTA members on a CD. Judy sent a card to the Caroline Arnold family. She asked to be notified if someone knows of an illness or death of a member.

Edith Scott, NEOMED Proctoring Chairperson, asked in a formal letter that NEOMED consider an increase in our stipend due to the increased number of volunteer hours for proctoring that have occurred over the past several months. She is so pleased with the number of PCRTA members who are willing to proctor.

Kay Wise, Protective Services Chairperson, announced that there is an AARP Smart Driver program on Thursday November 20, 2014. Contact Kay if you are interested.

Connie Evans, Webmaster, when asked how long it takes to place the newsletter onto the web, replied, "It takes around fifteen hours."

Jim Montaquila said that he really enjoyed the letter from Norm Park which was in the last newsletter. The Parks recently celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary.

If you wish to submit an article to the editor for consideration of inclusion in our newsletter, please contact Helena Parry, President and Newsletter Editor. We welcome your information, comments, suggestions or news - 330-673-0577 or hmparry@att.net

Trustee Report for Portage County Retired Teachers Association (This report was submitted to ORTA)

Trustee Ron Snowberger, September 17, 2014

Vice-president and program chair Georgia Darrah provided many interesting programs for the 2014 year. March featured George Sleight who was in his office on the 91st floor of the New York World Trade Center on September 11 when the plane crashed only 50 feet above his head; May featured Ron with a power point presentation of his educational trip to China; July featured our scholarship program; September will feature Sharon Hunter from Streetsboro telling how she came to write her first book; November will feature Mike Kerrigan of NEOMED presenting the new facilities and tour of STEM school and buildings; December will close with our Christmas luncheon and music by Field School Falcon Academy, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir.



Community Service chair Judy Morgan continues to challenge PCRTA with volunteer activities. We currently serve local churches, Portage Center of Hope, Portage Clothing Center, Big Brothers and Sisters, North Eastern Ohio Medical University, nursing home visits, local libraries, school supplies for kids and much more. PCRTA is proud of their over 11,000 volunteer hours so far this year. Edith Scott, proctor chair for NEOMED, reports that our volunteer hours totaled 977 hours for the school year.

Dual membership continues to grow with the work of chair Judy Hendershot. We currently have 420 dual memberships in PCRTA and ORTA. We expect at least eight new members yet this calendar year.

Although I could not attend all the meetings, I am privileged to serve on the ORTA finance and visions/goals committees. The chairs are doing and have done a great job. I plan to attend the fall conference meetings.

Legislative chair, Dan McCombs, has arranged for a Meet the Candidates day at the Kent Free Library on Monday, October 13 at 11:00. All are invited to attend. Presenting their platforms for election will be representatives and Ohio Board. Of Education candidates. Letters were emailed to AARP regarding their position on mandatory social security.

Our July scholarship presentation by chair Jim Montaquila and his committee was outstanding. The program featured a revised theme, a power point presentation, introduction of the scholars, their parents and guests and the scholars' response to a variety of questions. PCRTA was proud to present **SIX \$1,500.00** scholarships to future teacher students representing five Portage County high schools.

Our local newspaper carried a full page presentation in color, another plus in PR for PCRTA and ORTA. President Helena Parry encourages all members and others to visit our updated web page (pcrta.net). We hope you will visit us on this page which is prepared by Webmaster Connie Evans and assistant Karen Balog. The pre-retirement workshop was a grand success as reported by chairs Richard and Mary Ann Brockett

THE PCRTA WOULD LIKE TO THANK RON FOR TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR REPRESENTING OUR PCRTA AT ORTA. THROUGHOUT RON'S TWO YEAR TERM TO WHICH HE WAS ELECTED BY OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD, REQUIRES SEVERAL TRIPS TO ORTA IN COLUMBUS. OUR GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO KEEP A TRUSTEE POSITION AVAILABLE FOR PCRTA.

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BRING CHILDREN'S GLOVES, HATS AND MITTENS TO THE MEETING

PCRTA DECEMBER PROGRAM - THE FALCON ACADEMY CHOIR

The Falcon Academy of Creative Arts opened in August 2010 as an arts integrated school. Since then the choir has been involved in many activities including: The Great American Songbook



Project, Smash - Make a Musical (through iTheatrics and NBC), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (at the Weathervane Playhouse), a Pre-Christmas Carol performance at the Cleveland Playhouse, Choir Extravaganza at the Akron Civic Theatre, in addition to numerous community performances. We have produced the following musicals: School House Rock, Jr.; Seussical, Jr.; Annie, Jr. ; Wizard of Oz Young Performers edition; and this year Willy Wonka, Jr. This is the first year we have added an 8th grade to our school. As a result, this year we have had the opportunity to split into a 4th and 5th grade introductory choir and have a 6th, 7th and 8th grade joint choir that each meet twice a week. It is with great pleasure that we were invited to sing for the Portage County Retired Teachers at the **December** meeting.

MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot

Portage County Retired Teachers Association is a strong voice in Ohio Retired Teachers Association because of the commitment of its membership - each and every one of you. Thank you for your continued support. We welcome new members Christine Luli and Jane Nolte, who joined in September.

Unless you chose life memberships in both organizations, dues for 2015 are due now. It will be helpful for Treasurer Dave Gynn to receive renewals before the end of the year so that he can update ORTA in a timely way. If you are unsure of your membership status, call or email Dave at 330-678-8423 or davegynn9@aol.com. Dues renewals can be mailed to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Lane, Kent, OH 44240. Checks for local and state dues should be made out to PCRTA.



Below is the list of the 2014 newly retired Portage County teachers. We are in the process of contacting each of them with a second invitation to join the county and state organizations. Do you know anyone on the list that you might personally invite to join us? Numbers do count.

Portage County Retirees - Class of 2014

Aurora City Schools

Dana Lambacher, Theodore R. Linden

Crestwood Local Schools

Theresa Duesing, Edward Nichols, Pamela Braden, Eileen Shahan, Gerrie Zimcosky, Janet Wilkins, Patricia Eskridge

Field Local Schools

Karen Kennedy, Terry Roth Vogel, Keith Pearson, Judy Jones, Joanna Moore

James A. Garfield Local Schools

Balazs, Sarah Carley, Jane DeVol, Kenneth Fox, Bruce Traycoff

Kent City Schools

Dan McMillin, Jeane Nolte, Frank Barber, Dr. Mary Kay Pieski, Pam Mozer, Jan Ryan, David Wilson, Sue Acker, Judith Atkins, David Killius, Laurie Knuth, Nan Moore, Lori Slattery, Dr. Joseph Giancola, James Fox, Deborah Dortch, Kristi Cabot, John Nemecek, Cindy Wawrin

Ravenna City Schools

Joanne Kucek-Keffer, Tina Hannahs, Kathy Jurca, Charlotte Good, JoAnn McEwen, Adrienne Kapr-Ford, Marcia Miley, Connie Moulton, Deborah Miles, Tim Tamati, Dave McBee

Southeast Local Schools

Paula Macchiarella, David Dubinsky, Bruce Blasiman, Joann Chess, Nanette Travers

Streetsboro City Schools Elle Ashby, Paula Evans, William Smerglia

Georgia Darrah volunteers with the "Giving Dolls" program of Wadsworth, Ohio. She works with a chapter in Hudson, Ohio. They make cloth dolls with embroidered faces which they distribute to children who are in a stressful situation whether it be death, illness, separation of a family member or other tragedies.

A big thank you to our members who continue to donate items to the "Giving Dolls." Cotton fabric, lace and ribbons are always needed to make clothes for the dolls. Crocheted or knitted blankets 24x24 inches are also appreciated. Items can be brought to any of our luncheons and given to Georgia Darrah. For more information call Georgia at 330-626-2135.

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=Life Membership
ann=Annual plus the year.
Example:
S2014P2014=state and local dues paid
through 2014 and are now due for
2015

www.pcrta.net

Connie Evans, Webmaster



Karen Balog, Assistant Webmaster

Newsletter photos by Pat Gynn or Helena Parry

2015 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement District & Year _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Do you want to receive your newsletter via email? ___yes ___no

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