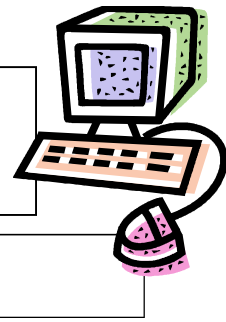


January -March, 2009



The Desk Top



Portage County Retired Teachers

2009 – Off to a New Start

Volume 19—Issue 1

Our March program will be led by **Kathy Baker**, an author and writer for the Record-Courier, who offers her wit and wisdom through her popular newspaper column.



Although Kathy's background includes more than 20 years of experience in public relations, marketing, and communications, her greatest talents are as a speaker and as a writer.

Her first book, *Leaving Adversity Plaza*, came out several years ago—complete with a highly coveted *Chicken Soup for the Soul* endorsement!

Today Kathy's well-chosen words inspire and motivate people throughout the United States. "I delight in using words to help people recognize and celebrate their own unique gifts," says Kathy. "My passion is energizing, encouraging, and engaging with others."

Kathy will be bringing us an inspirational message about teachers. Join us for an afternoon of fun and camaraderie.

You can meet **Edna Hansen**, the new ORTA president at our March meeting. She will join us with greetings from the ORTA office and to let us in on her goals for ORTA in 2009.



Our own **Ray Troxtell**, the 2008 President of ORTA, will be returning to PCRTA as our new President for two years. Ray previously served PCRTA as our President in 1966-67 and as our ORTA Trustee. Welcome back, Ray!

Dave Gynn, past president of PCRTA, has been elected as the Eastern Area Regional Vice-President of ORTA, a job which may eventually lead to being the President of ORTA in the future. Ohio is divided into two regions—Eastern and Western. Dave will be responsible for all the retired teacher chapters in the eastern half of the state this year, as well as serving on our executive committee as past president.

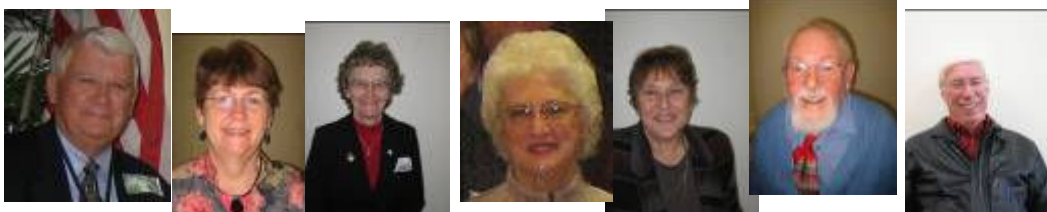


Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| <i>Leadership Team</i> | 2 |
| <i>NEOUCOM Proctors</i> | |
| <i>Prez Says</i> | 3 |
| <i>2009 Scholarships</i> | |
| <i>Not Old...Mature</i> | 4 |
| <i>Golden Buckeye Card</i> | |
| <i>A Great Day with JA</i> | 5 |
| <i>Membership Form</i> | 6 |
| <i>Membership Labels</i> | |
| <i>Volunteer Hours</i> | |
| <i>Treasurer's Report</i> | 7 |
| <i>Membership</i> | |
| <i>Legislative Report</i> | 8 |
| <i>Key People in Legislation</i> | |
| <i>Important Notes</i> | |
| <i>Looking Back</i> | 9 |
| <i>2010 Census Workers</i> | |
| <i>Meeting Minutes</i> | 10 |
| <i>Meeting Reservation</i> | 11 |
| <i>Bring to the Meeting</i> | |
| <i>Calendar</i> | 12 |

Don Coffee, President of Shaker Heights Retired Teachers Association will attend our meeting to tell about a tour trip which he will be leading to China in October.

MEET THE 2009 LEADERSHIP OFFICERS



The faces of our 2009 leadership team: Ray Troxtell, Terrie Sargi, Ruth Wiegand, Carol Kates, Darlene Fetterhoff, Les Bennett, Dan McCombs



| <p align="center">2009 PCRTA LEADERSHIP TEAM</p> | <p align="center">COMMITTEE CHAIRS</p> |
|--|--|
| <p align="center">OFFICERS</p> <p>President—Ray Troxtell</p> <p>Vice President--Terrie Sargi</p> <p>Recording Secretary—Ruth Weigand</p> <p>Corresponding Secretary--Carol Kates</p> <p>Treasurer—Darlene Fetterhoff</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer—Les Bennett</p> <p>ORTA Trustee—Dan McCombs</p> <p>Past President—Dave Gynn</p> | <p>Archival—Norm Park</p> <p>Community Services—Judith Morgan</p> <p>Informative & Protective Services —Kay Wise</p> <p>Legislative—Dan McCombs</p> <p>Membership—Art Fesemyer</p> <p>Memorial & Sunshine—Mary Jane Brannon</p> <p>NEOUCOM Proctor Project— Edith Scott</p> <p>Newsletter—Pat Gynn</p> <p>Nominations—Saroj Sutaria</p> <p>Retirement Planning—Ria Mastromatteo</p> <p>Scholarship—Bob Dunn</p> <p>Telephone & Communications—Saroj Sutaria</p> <p>Webmaster—Connie Evans</p> |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>To reach any of these Officers or Chairs:</p> <p>Go to <u>Contact Us</u> and send a message</p> </div> | |



Edith Scott,
NEOUCOM Proctor
Project

MORE YOUNG DOCTORS MEANS WE NEED MORE PROCTORS!

We are lucky to have such a wonderful medical training facility for doctors and pharmacists here in Portage County. NEOUCOM contributes money to PCRTA for the time we volunteer to proctor tests. Check out the next generation of medical students, have fun, and help raise money for PCRTA future teacher scholarships.

Call Edith Scott to sign up now. 330-297-1812



PREZ SAYS: Making Our Future Together By Ray Troxtell



As your Executive Committee of PCRTA meets and organizes for the year 2009, we are faced with the difficulty of determining achievable goals and priorities and obtaining active member participation in serving on our many working committees.

We have made real progress during the past few years. We have an excellent meeting place, good speakers, active committees, increased member attendance, plus having interesting and productive meetings. We have grown our membership and publish a quality newsletter.

Service to others is a good way to make friends and be an active and productive member of your community.

We continue to have representation at the state level. Dan McCombs is a Trustee on the ORTA Board. Dave Gynn will serve on the ORTA Executive Board as Eastern Vice-President for the next two years. I will serve for one more year as Past ORTA President. Our success is the result of the involvement and hard work by many of our members.

The real question or issue is whether we drift along or we (all of our members) continue to invest time and energy into building a more dynamic organization. We need more members to actively serve on our committees. Service to others is a good way to make new friends and be an active and productive member of your community.

Our state and national organizations, ORTA and NRTA, are working hard to become more effective in meeting members' needs. We are coordinating our efforts with AARP to achieve mutual goals, such as improved health care for retirees.

The impact of our national economic situation upon all of us, especially retirees, will require that each of us be aware and informed of the plans that our political leaders are making.

Your PCRTA Executive Committee needs and would welcome your ideas, suggestions, and your participation in building a better future together.

Ray

2009 SCHOLARSHIPS BY Bob Dunn, Scholarship Chair

The purpose of our scholarship program is to promote the teaching profession and to financially assist Portage County high school graduates who will be majoring in education. This year we will award \$1,000 scholarships to at least three graduating seniors. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of their:

- standardized test scores,
- leadership ability,
- recommendations,
- community service,
- plus college and professional goals.

Application forms are available in the guidance office at each high school in the county. The application deadline is Friday, April 3, 2009. Late applications will not be considered.

Recipients will be introduced at the July 16 PCRTA luncheon.

Applicants are asked to submit:

- a neat, typed resume application;
- a list of leadership experiences in school and extracurricular activities;
- a description of participation in community service projects;
- a short essay about college plans
- a written teacher recommendation
- an official school transcript including standardized test scores

Submit application to:

Bob Dunn
4264 Hattrick Road
Rootstown, OH 44272

By April 3, 2009



I'm Not Old...I'm Only Mature!

Today at the drugstore, the clerk was a gent.
From my purchase this chap took off ten per cent.
I asked for the cause of a lesser amount;
And he answered, "Because of the Seniors' Discount."

I went to McDonald's for a burger and fries;
there, once again, got quite a surprise.
The clerk poured some coffee which he handed
to me.
He said, "For you Seniors, the coffee is free."

And



Understand, I'm not old—I'm merely mature;
But some things are changing, temporarily, I'm sure.
The newspaper print gets smaller each day,
And people speak softer—can't hear what they say.
My teeth are my own (I have the receipt)
And my glasses identify people I meet.

Oh, I've slowed down a bit...not a lot, I am
sure.
You see, I'm not old...I'm only mature.
The gold in my hair has been bleached by the
sun.
You should see all the damage that chlorine
has done.
Washing my hair has turned it all white,
but don't call it gray...saying "blonde" is just right.



My car is all paid for...not a nickel is owed.
Yet a kid yells, "Old duffer, get off of the road!"
My car has no scratches...not even a dent.
Still I get all that guff from punk who's "Hell bent."
My friends all get older...much faster than me.
They seem much more wrinkled, from
what I can see.
I've got "character lines," not
wrinkles...for sure,
but don't call me old...
just call me mature.



The steps in the houses they're building today
are so high that they take...your breath all away;
and the streets are much steeper than ten years ago.
That should explain why my walking is slow.
But I'm keeping up on what's hip and what news,
and I think I can still dance a mean boogaloo.
I'm still in the running...in this I'm
secure,
I'm not really old...I'm only mature.



The Golden Buckeye Card

More than two million Ohioans are eligible for the Golden Buckeye card, honored at 20,000 businesses statewide. Golden Buckeye cardholders have saved an estimated \$2 billion since 1976. All Ohioans age 60 or better, as well as adults age 18-59 who have disabilities as defined by Social Security, are eligible for a free Golden Buckeye Card.

How to Get a Card -

Ohio residents who hold current Ohio Driver Licenses or State ID cards automatically receive a Golden Buckeye card in the month of their 60th birthday. Individuals who do not have a current license or State ID, as well as people under age 60 who are eligible due to disability or who otherwise do not receive their card automatically, may apply for a card at most public libraries and senior centers. Due to ID, age and disability (when appropriate) verification requirements, you cannot apply for a Golden Buckeye Card online or by phone.

Where to Use the Card -

Most participating merchants display the Golden Buckeye logo on their door, in their window or at the checkout. Look for it wherever you shop. If you don't see it, ask if the business offers a discount for older customers. Businesses that honor the Golden Buckeye card do so voluntarily and choose the savings they offer. Some offer a percentage off a total purchase, others offer special deals on certain products. Be sure to ask and offer your feedback to help the business create the best savings for their customers.

How to Get a Replacement Card -

If your Golden Buckeye Card has been lost, stolen or damaged, call **1-866-301-6446** to request a replacement.



For examples of places that honor the Golden Buckeye Card and the type of savings they offer, go to the Department of Aging, Buckeye Card Services (<http://aging.ohio.gov/goldenbuckeye/>) to find a listing of businesses by area and see where YOU can save.

A GREAT DAY WITH JA: Retired Teachers Return to the Classroom for a Day



Field High School seniors and retired teachers prepare for a day of teaching JA economics to Brimfield students.

Brimfield Elementary school was abuzz with activity as retired teachers and high school business students taught lessons in personal economics to students in grades First through Fifth. The JA (Junior Achievement) program, Mastering Money with YOUTH, is designed to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise and improve the quality of their lives. **Denice Schafer**, JA's senior district director, secured a grant from National Retired Teachers Association to purchase materials for the program.

While first graders were debating whether ice cream is a need or a want, students in the fourth grade were listing natural and capital resources found in our area. Students in some classrooms were tracing transportation routes with miniature cars. Others were singing a rap tune to follow a quarter through our economic system.

The lessons were taught by senior students in **Mrs. Theresa Brugler's** Marketing Education program with assistance when needed by retired teachers. The Field High School students used JA-prepared materials and lesson plans, added their unique personalities and backgrounds, and created many exciting classroom experiences. One high school student, in response to a question, explained the Federal economic stimulus package in a clear and concise manner. The elementary students discussed the bailout, our new President, and, of course, the First Family's new dog.

The JA lessons are correlated with the Ohio academic content standards. Classroom teachers were pleased that the lessons enhanced their lesson plans at each grade level. The all-day, in-school mastering money project left the students with much to share with their parents. They may even have mentioned mobbing a very tall senior and bringing him to the ground during recess. The high school seniors gained leadership experience and confidence. And the retired teachers enjoyed a day back in the classroom.

Retired teachers taking part in JA in a Day include **Ellen Arena, Diane and Harry Bowman, Gino and Judy Calcei, Judy Church, Marge Conroy, Eldon Reibold, Dave and Pat Gynn, Al Henderson, Carol Kates, John and Sandy Kerstetter, Dan McCombs, Diane McMasters, Nancy Paulus, and Jeanna Pisegna.**



JA-in-a-Day students and their volunteer teachers interact.

2009 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Retirement School/Year _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Phone _____
 Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____
 Name of Associate Member (non-teacher spouse or friend)

 Gift Membership from _____

| 2009 DUES PAYMENT | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| PCRTA 2009 Dues \$10 | _____ |
| PCRTA Life Member \$150 | _____ |
| ORTA 2009 Dues \$20 | _____ |
| ORTA Life Member \$300 | _____ |
| PCRTA Associate Member \$5 | _____ |
| Scholarship Fund Donation | _____ |
| TOTAL | _____ |



Make one check payable to PCRTA. Mail completed form and check to
 Darlene J. Fetterhoff, Treasurer, 2417 Duck Pond Dr., Ravenna, OH 44266

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...NEW YEAR=DUES ARE DUE

Check your address label...if you see 2009, your dues are up-to-date!

If it says 2008, check the code. Here is what you need to pay:

A2008—Associate Member...please send \$5.

S2008P2008—ORTA annual member/PCRTA annual member, send \$30.

SP2008—Life member of ORTA/annual member of PCRTA, send \$10.

S2008P—ORTA Annual member/PCRTA life member, send \$20.

REPORT VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Retired teachers are a rich source of talent for volunteer and community service activities.

Use this form to report your service hours for January through March.

Clip or copy and mail this form to **Judith Morgan**, 265 Jade Boulevard, Streetsboro, OH 44240
 or call her to give her your hours—330-653-8174.



Check the areas where you volunteer and estimate your total volunteer hours for each month.


- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal welfare | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical societies | <input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civic groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals | <input type="checkbox"/> Political organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Service organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Social services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crusades and Drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Museums | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental projects | <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (list) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handicapped assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools | _____ |

Name _____ January Hours _____ February Hours _____ March Hours _____

TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for January 1, 2009 to February 3, 2009

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Beginning Balance: | \$9,686.67 | |
| Expenses: | | |
| ORTA dues | 360.00 |  |
| Income: | \$2,4930.00 | |
| Ending Balance: | \$11,819.67 | |
| Scholarship Funds in Checking | \$5,997.94 | |
| Checking Working Balance | \$5,821.73 | |

MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS:

In memory of **Carol McGill:**
Ruth Anstine

In memory of **Mabelle Apley:**
Edith Scott

In Memoriam:

For the loss of **Rita Kilcheman** who passed away on January 17, 2009. She was a member of PCRTA and ORTA since 1993. Our deepest sympathy to her husband **Earl**.

For the loss of **Trudy Crawford** who passed away on January 31, 2009. She was an associate member of PCRTA. She was preceded in death by her husband **Tom**.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

Members of last year's Membership Committee certainly worked hard, and their efforts are truly appreciated. We started 2008 with only 345 dual members, and ended the year with 418. When we add the associate members, our membership total is 460. Want to help this year? Contact me at afesemyer@neo.rr.com.

We have set three priorities for 2009. First, we shall continue working hard to retain those members we already have. Darlene Fetterhoff, our treasurer, sends reminders to members to pay their 2009 dues. If they do not reply, the membership committee will contact them by phone or letter to keep them on our rolls.

Second, it is important that we get membership information to the retirees in Portage County who are receiving STRS pensions, but who do not belong to ORTA or PCRTA. We will compare a master list of STRS recipients and compare it to our directory of PCRTA members. Last year we had about 130 letters returned because the addresses we were given were incorrect. We hope ORTA/STRS has corrected this problem.

- Say Hello to Our Newest Members:**
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jane Bridge | Streetsboro Schools |
| Bernie Christensen | Associate Member |
| Stan H. Christensen | Kent State University |
| Dennis Kelly | Kent City Schools |
| Pat Wilson | Associate Member |
| Richard (Dick) Wilson | Kent City Schools |



Art Fesemyer,
Membership
Chair

Third, we need to find out as soon as possible which educators are planning to retire this year and get membership materials to them BEFORE they leave for summer vacations. It seems the best way to do this could be to prepare packets of information and deliver them to the Educational Resource Center in Ravenna to be distributed to the Portage County Schools.

At the time of this writing, the Federal Economic Stimulus Program is planning to send stimulus checks to retirees who are receiving Social Security payments, but not to retirees who receive checks from the public retirement programs. There are many reasons that our colleagues, who have retired and have chosen not to support their Ohio retirement organizations, should be members...but what other groups are trying to correct this blatant injustice for them? Just another reason for having them join PCRTA and ORTA!

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Dan McCombs

I'm sorry to report that HB315 did not pass legislative muster this past session. We will look forward to a new bill being introduced during the next legislative session.

The upcoming year will find ORTA working on new guidelines for 2009;

I will be reporting regarding the future on the following topics: health care; school funding; charter schools; rehired retirees; STRS pensions; communications and REO-PAC (Political Action Committee); and Social Security.

We certainly have a full plate and with the problems facing our economy, we need to stay on top of the direction the legislature is headed. We need all of our membership to be involved in this critical endeavor.

Stay informed and be willing to get involved. It is your organization and your future.

Check the ORTA website, www.orta.org, for up-to-the-day information on current legislation; or go to www.PCRTA.net and link to the ORTA site.



Dan McCombs,
ORTA Trustee

KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED IN OHIO AND UNITED STATES LEGISLATION:

Ohio State Representative—68th District: Kathleen Chandler

77 S. High St., 11th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6111 Tel: (614) 466-2004 Email: district68@ohr.state.oh.us

Ohio State Representative—43rd District: Stephen Dyer

77 S. High St., 10th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-6111 Tel: (614)466-4790 Email: district43@ohr.state.oh.us

Ohio State Senator—28th District: Tom Sawyer

Senate Building, Room #049, Ground Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Tel: (614)466-7041
Email: senatorsawyer@maild.sen.state.oh.us

US House Representative—17th District: Tim Ryan

1421 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515 Tel: 202-225-5261

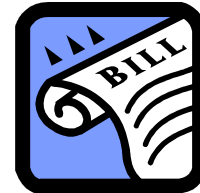
US Senator: Sherrod Brown

455 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510 Tel: (202) 224-2315 Email: brown.senate.gov/contact/

US Senator: George Voinovich

524 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510 Tel: (202) 224-3353

Email: Voinovich.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Contact.ContactForm



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

Visit our website at

www.pcrta.net

For more information and pictures and links to other important places and information

Webmaster: Connie Evans

cncevans@gmail.com



COUNT YOUR PILLS:

Remember to count your medications if they do not come in a pre-sealed container. One time I was 19 pills short on a 90-count mail order from Express Scripts. I called them and they sent out the missing pills immediately with no problem, but now I count them every time.

Pat Gynn



NEED A RIDE TO MEETINGS?

If you need a ride to the luncheon meeting, Saroj Sutaria would love to pick you up or find someone to give you a ride.

Call Saroj at 330-678-9045

Or email her

sarojsutaria@yahoo.com



LOOKING BACK INTO OUR ARCHIVES

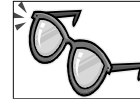
An excerpt from “A Word About Our Newsletter by Winona Vannoy”:

Our first newsletter was created in March 1991 by Gene Newton with Ralph Moore serving as editor. Pauline Weckerly was also very involved in those early editions of the newsletter. I joined the Association later that year and immediately Gene had me helping him put the newsletter together. With his untimely death shortly after he completed the December 1993 issue, I took over the job of coordinating it with lots of help from many members. Pauline Weckerly pulls together the articles from other members and writes some articles of her own, then I edit, organize, and duplicate it. Finally several members get together to put it together and label it for mailing.

As a result of Gene’s helping to repair machines for Roosevelt High School, he was able to provide the materials and duplicate it. As a result of my being emeritus administrator at Kent State University, I have been granted the privilege of running it off in my former office.

This has been a real savings to our chapter. The supplies for each publication cost us approximately \$30.00, while having it printed would run nearly \$300.00. We usually print and mail over 300 copies four times a year

and in March we mail the directory. It is not an easy task, but it certainly gives me a chance to learn more about my computer and many friendships have been formed while working together.



Here is an interesting article which appeared in our newsletter on December 1993. It was written by Pauline Weckerly: “A Sad Chapter”

1980-81 was a black year for the Ravenna Schools. A nasty, long drawn out teacher strike was called. It is not always the salary issue that causes teachers to vote for strike. Many other factors enter in—class size, lack of enforceable discipline, lack of adequate materials, and poor communication between board members, parents, and the teacher’s union all contributed to the disaster. After a long, bitter fight with many teachers being thrown in jail, the strike ended. Doris stood by her teacher’s organization—she went to jail. Did anyone really win? The teachers lost respect in the community. Board members were vilified. School levies failed and as usual it was the children who were hurt the most.

Norm’s Note: In 1994, Article I of our bylaws, our name “Portage County RTA” was changed to PCRTA.



Norm Park,
Archivist

Wanted: Workers for 2010 Census

Are you looking to make some extra income and help to document American history? The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting census takers for the 2010 Census.

Arnold Jackson, associate director for the Decennial Census, said, “These are temporary part-time jobs that are ideal for retirees who might be looking to earn extra income, work flexible hours with paid training, and give back to their communities.”

Pay ranges from \$10 to \$22 an hour, depending on the region.

Hiring will begin in February to recruit the thousands of census takers needed to update address lists and conduct door-to-door interviews.

To apply, call 1-866-861-2010 toll-free to schedule an appointment to take the employment test.

For more information, go to www.census.gov/2010censusjobs.



Did you know?

If you refuse to give answers to a census taker, you could be fined up to \$100.

If you give false information, you could be fined \$500.

The Constitution tells us to do a census every ten years. It also says that this must be done in order to calculate the method of apportionment of US Congress representatives. States are allocated Congressional seats based on their population.

And it’s great for genealogy researchers, too!

MEETING MINUTES - Ruth Weigand, Secretary



The highlights from the Executive Committee and luncheon meetings are provided below. Many of the meeting details are included in other reports in this newsletter. Complete minutes are available to all PCRTA members. Call **Ruth Weigand** (330-673-4788) for a print copy or go to our website, www.pcrta.net.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – Nov. 6, 2008

- President **Dave Gynn** thanked **Terrie Sargi** for completing the term of Vice-President for one year.
- Ray Troxtell** will wear the ORTA volunteer pin for his excellent job conducting the Retirement Planning Seminar at the November luncheon. **Darlene Fetterhoff** will wear the pin in December for all the work she does as our treasurer.
- ORTA Trustee, Dan McCombs** reported that the Governor has been trying to get a handle on school funding. He said the yearly local reports will be judged for best practices and are due in to ORTA by January 15.
- Dave Gynn** reported he filled out a grant request for Junior Achievement for teaching economic literacy to elementary students. Retired teacher volunteers will be paired with high school marketing students.
- Adele Fussner** reported that PCRTA volunteers collected 16 grocery carts of food at the Ravenna Giant Eagle for Portage County food cupboards as a community service project for Make a Difference Day.
- Norm Park** reported that he has been sorting the archived material and removing duplicate documents.
- Art Fesemyer** said he has some brochures left from last year's membership drive, but will need to rewrite the membership letter because of the dues increase.
- Edith Scott** reported that Irene George will celebrate her 100th birthday on November 18th. We will send her a card and announce her birthday at the luncheon.
- Newsletter Editor, **Pat Gynn** reported that Newton Falls Printing did the last newsletter at a savings of \$28.
- Jan Fencel** and **Mary Jane Brannon**, Memorial and Sunshine chairs, would like to be told of any deaths or of people who should receive a get well card. It was decided that our memorial service for deceased members will be given at the May meeting this year.
- Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** thanked board members who attended the breakfast to hear Rep. Kathleen Chandler talk about the education funding bill.
- Ray Troxtell** reported that 27 people attended the Retirement Planning Workshop. He thanked his wife, **Emily**, **Ruth Weigand**, and **Edie Scott** for making and serving cookies.

- Webmaster **Connie Evans** would like to have a contest in the spring to get more people to use our website.
- Saroj Sutaria** volunteered to be the chair of the Telephone/Communication committee.
- The 2009 PCRTA Calendar was presented. The Committee decided to have the 2009 meetings at the Twin Lakes Country Club.
- Dave Gynn** reported we earned \$400 on the bus trip to Fallingwater. We sent Ron Paskey a thank you note with a \$50 gift certificate.

LUNCHEON MEETING – November 20, 2008

- The meeting was held at the Twin Lakes Country Club. Thanks to Hilda Rohlf for arranging to have flu shots given.
- First time attendees were **Jim Montequillo** and **Jane Bridge**, Streetsboro; **Judith Morgan**, Columbus; **Fran Tracy**, Garfield; **Kathie Havener**, Crestwood; and **Laurel Wilcox**, KSU.
- Joanne Newhauser** and nine members led the group in a Native American invocation reading.
- Denice Schafer**, the JA representative from Akron, told about a joint PCRTA/JA project. A sign-up sheet was passed around to get volunteers.
- A collection was taken for **Kathy Morris**, a PCRTA member who lost her benefits, raising \$517.
- Dave Gynn** thanked the members of the Executive Committee and gave each one a candy bar with a name that went with their job.
- Our speaker was **Willie Wilcox**, a retired P.E. teacher who spoke on the toys of our childhood. After the meeting she evaluated the worth of some antiques that had been brought to the meeting by members.
- Saroj Sutaria** announced the following officers who were up for election: **Carol Kates**, Corresponding Secretary; **Les Bennett**, Assistant Treasurer; and **Ray Troxtell**, President. They were unanimously accepted.
- Adele Fussner** collected money to buy turkeys for the Center of Hope. She will take them the food that members brought to the luncheon meeting.
- Ruth Anstine** won the 50/50 drawing, earning \$78 of the \$156 collected.

LUNCHEON MEETING – December 18, 2008

- The December Christmas Party was held at the Twin Lakes Country Club.
- Judy Morgan** read a Christmas Reflections poem.
- STRS Executive Director, **Michael Nehf** installed the new 2009 Officers. **Dave Gynn** passed the President's gavel to **Ray Troxtell**.
- Norm Park** presented gifts to **Dave** and **Pat Gynn** for their work as President and Newsletter Editor.
- Dave Gynn** read thank you notes from **Kathy Morris**, thanking PCRTA members for their donation to her.

–**Dave Gynn** asked the Executive Committee to vote on awarding the AARP 2008 Community Service Award to **Edith Scott** for her hard work with the NEOUCOM Proctor Project.

–PCRTA received a \$25 cash award from AARP because of the large number of people who signed pledge cards for the AARP Divided We Stand project.

–Our program was the **KSU Ars Nova Singers** under the direction of **Kerry Glann**.

–**Michael Nehf**, Executive Director of STRS, spoke about our pensions and health care. He was accompanied **Laura Eckler**, director of STRS communications.

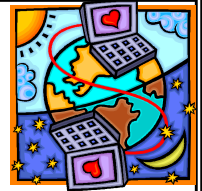
–Edith Scott won the 50/50 raffle in the amount of \$73 out of \$146 collected.

–Members played Bingo, winning white elephant prizes donated by members.



PAPER NEWSLETTER...OR ONLINE?

Our newsletter is always posted online at PCRTA's own website pcrta.net and at ORTA's website orta.org.

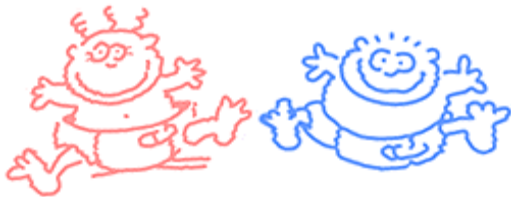


Some members have suggested we could save money by having members who are able to use the Internet to get their newsletter online.

Some members already go to the website to print out their luncheon reservation or membership form or the volunteer hours form so they don't need to cut up their own newsletter.

If you would like to get an email when each new newsletter is posted, please send me a note to PCRTA@AOL.COM and I'll put you ON my notification list and take you OFF the mailing list. Thanks!

BRING TO THE MEETING ***** BRING TO THE MEETING ***** BRING TO THE MEETING ***** BRING TO THE MEETING *****



Our community service project for March is to collect disposable diapers for the County Clothing Center. They are in desperate need for diapers and pull-ups in all sizes from newborn on.

You can bring in a package of "nappies" or donate some money towards the purchase of some. Thanks in advance.

Judith Morgan, Community Service Chair

**Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, March 19 12 noon
Twin Lakes Country Club – 1519 Overlook Drive, Kent**



Luncheon Menu: Pork Marcella, Rice Pilaf, Dilled Carrots, Salad and rolls, Beverages, Gingerbread cake

Vegetarian Entree:
Vegetable Rigatoni

Number of buffet lunch reservations _____ and names. Please print clearly.

Number of **vegetarian** lunch reservations _____ and names.

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$10 for each luncheon reservation).

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY MARCH 12. Mail your reservation and check made out to PCRTA to:
Les Bennett, 6222 Lakeview Drive, Ravenna, OH 44266 330-673-4115

Address Service Requested

Darlene Fetterhoff, Treasurer
2417 Duck Pond Drive
Ravenna, OH 44266-8221

Please notify PCRTA of
any address changes.



ADDRESS CODES

S=Life Member in ORTA
Retired Teachers Association
P=Life member in Portage County
Teacher Association
A=Associate member in Portage County
Teacher Association
Year=Membership paid through that year

E-mail: PCRTA@aol.com

Website: www.pcrta.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 12—Executive Committee
March 19 – Luncheon Meeting
Program: Kathy Baker, speaker;
Edna Hansen, ORTA President

May 7—Executive Committee
May 21—Luncheon Meeting
May – NRTA National Day of Service
Senior Spelling Bee

June – Maplewood Career Center
GED Graduation

July 9 – Executive Committee
July 16 – Luncheon Meeting—
Scholarship Recipients

September 10 – Executive Committee
September 17 – Luncheon Meeting
New Retirees

October 21—Retirement Planning
October 24—Make a Difference Day

November 5—Executive Committee
November 19—Luncheon Meeting
Officer Election

December 17—Luncheon, Christmas
Party, Officer Installation

Executive Committee meetings are
held at the Williamson Alumni
Center at Kent State at 9:30 a.m.

The luncheon meetings will be held
at the Twin Lakes Country Club,
1519 Overlook Drive, Kent, at
12:00 noon.

