

The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County
Retired Teachers Association



Desktop Volume 22 - Issue 5

Nov - Dec 2012



A Chapter of Ohio Retired
Teachers Association

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OUR LAST TWO MEETINGS IN 2012



Our next luncheon meeting on **Thursday, November 15**, will feature our speaker, **Deborah Easton**. As a Communication Skills Consultant and Trainer for 30 years, Deborah provides audiences with practical and effective advice for communicating with other people. Her topic will be "Combating Negativity in Today's Society."

Deborah's techniques for one-to-one interactions will provide us with some practical strategies for handling difficult interactions, delivered in her own humorous style. Hmm, maybe our presidential candidates could stop by for this presentation.

****Come early for free blood pressure checks by NEOMED students.**

****We will vote for next year's officers—President, Corresponding Secretary, and Assistant Treasurer. The new officers will be installed and will start their 2-year term in January.**

****Our Community Service project for November is to collect nonperishable items for the Center of Hope in Ravenna. You may also donate money to purchase turkeys. Open your hearts and help some less fortunate families to have a happier Thanksgiving.**



The December Christmas Party luncheon will be held on **Thursday, December 13** (note that this is the second Thursday rather than our usual third Thursday date). Our PCRTA members will be joyfully entertained by Forever Harmony Chorus, a women's acapella barbershop group from the Akron area under the direction of Millie Miles. The chorus is a chapter of Harmony Inc., which is an international group of singers very similar to the Sweet Adelines.



****A special presentation of "Christmas at Rock-Away Rest" will be performed for you by the soon-to-be-formed PCRTA Players—a treat you surely won't want to miss!**

**** Remember to bring hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves to be donated to the County Clothing Center to keep the little ones warm this winter.**



****Both of these luncheons will be held at the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED, the Northeast Ohio Medical College in Rootstown, located at 4209 State Route 44.**

PREZ SEZ — THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The past two years as president of PCRTA have been just great. Thanks to members' support and the fantastic board support you have representing you, my job has been a joy. I know each of you will support the incoming president in the same manner you have supported me. I will remain the ORTA trustee representative in Columbus for 2013.

Much has been accomplished this year. ORTA and PCRTA's work (especially Dan McCombs, who is our legislative chair) in protecting our pensions, our COLA, and our defined benefits were finally approved by the legislature in Columbus.

All of our board committees have come through this year with shining accomplishments. I want to call your attention to **Judy Morgan** and our many community activities.

And what would we do without **Edie Scott** and **NEOMED**? What a great way to accumulate volunteer hours. Speaking of volunteer hours, we are so close to a record-setting 10,000 hours, please report your hours to Judy and help push us over the top.

I may be missing some names, but I know I saw some recipes in the new ORTA Cook Book from **Pat Gynn, Edie Scott, Dottie Emerick, and Georgia Darrah**. The books have arrived and I will bring them to the November meeting. For those of you 37 who ordered books, please have your \$10 each payment ready. We have 8 extra books left; call me if you would like one.

Please remember your reservations for the November meeting. **Marlene** will appreciate an early response. Along with an excellent speaker for November, **Dave Gynn** will install our officers for 2013.

Our Christmas luncheon and program of musical entertainment is planned for December. Then everyone will regroup in March of 2013. In the meantime, please contact any new retiree you know and invite them to become a member of one of Ohio's best organizations—PCRTA and ORTA.

Ron

"The past two years as president of PCRTA have been just great...my job has been a joy!"



Ron Snowberger, President of PCRTA, ORTA Trustee

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013 AND 2014

Three board positions are to be filled this year: President, Assistant Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary. They will serve for two years: 2013 and 2014.

Jan FencI, Nominations Chair, has asked three people who have agreed to run for these offices. Other members may be nominated from the floor. Installation will occur following the election at the November luncheon.

Thanks to **Ron Snowberger** for serving as President for the last two years.

President:	Assistant Treasurer:	Corresponding Secretary:
Helena Parry	Ria Mastromatteo	Barbara Cribbs



THE SENIOR CITIZEN ALPHABET



A's for arthritis; **B**'s the bad back; **C**'s the chest pains, perhaps cardiac? **D** is for dental decay and decline; **E** is for eyesight, can't read that top line!

F is for fissures and fluid retention; **G** is for gas which I'd rather not mention. **H** is for high blood pressure, I'd rather it low; **I** is for incisions with scars you can show.

J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend; **K** is for knees that crack when they bend. **L**'s for libido, what happened to sex? **M** is for memory, I forget what comes next.

N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low; **O** is for osteo, bones that don't grow; **P** for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me a pill and I'll be good as new.

Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu? **R** is for reflux, one meal turns to two; **S** is for sleepless nights, counting my fears; **T** is for tinnitus, bells in my ears!

U is for urinary—troubles with flow; **V** for vertigo, that's dizzy, you know; **W** for worry, now what's going 'round? **X** is for X ray and what may be found; **Y** for another year I'm left here behind; **Z** is for the zest I still have...in my mind.

HEY! YOO-HOO! IT'S TIME TO TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2012

ORTA proclaimed 2012 “The Year of the Volunteer” and asked us to keep track of our volunteer hours and send them to ORTA. They plan to make a large check to give to the Governor, the House of Representatives, and the Senate to show them the worth of Ohio’s retired teachers.




Did you know that in Ohio, one hour of volunteer time is valued over \$21 an hour!! Add up all the hours our members volunteer and it’s phenomenal! We are a powerful economic force in the state!!!

One of the reasons we are able to volunteer is because of our defined benefit pensions. We don’t have to take second jobs (from younger workers who also need jobs) or worry if our investments will do well (STRS investors do that for us) and we’re retired and bright with lots of skills to share.

If you didn’t write down your hours or give them to **Judy** as we have gone through the year, take a few minutes to think about where you volunteer and estimate your hours. If you serve a church dinner, work at the County Clothing Center, drive a neighbor to her chemo or radiation, help out in your grandchild’s school listening to kids read, or whatever you do...add up your hours. Check out your own worth at \$21 an hour! Then send your hours in to Judy to be tallied with the rest of our members. Estimate your Nov/Dec hours; or get them in by January 5.



SEND YOUR HOURS...MAIL YOUR HOURS...PHONE YOUR HOURS...EMAIL YOUR HOURS

Judy Morgan	Grams4two@hotmail.com	330-653-8174
265 Jade Boulevard	330-653-8174	
Streetsboro, OH 44241	PLEEEEEEEZE! It’s time! Do it today...don’t wait. 	

PCRTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Helena Parry, Membership Chair



As an FYI, STRS Ohio currently serves more than 138,000 benefit recipients and pays out more than \$5.8 billion annually in benefits. Benefit recipients include service retirees, disability benefit recipients, survivors of deceased members and refunds to terminated members. STRS was established in 1920, thus providing retirement benefits since before the dawn of Social Security. How lucky can we, the recipients, be?

This pension plan did not just happen without the work of those who had the foresight and concern for retired members. Locally, we have been blessed by the work of **Dan McCombs** and **David Gynn**, who diligently and intelligently represented the PCRTA in Columbus. This is one reason why your membership is so important so that we can continue to have a voice in Columbus. Membership does offer other opportunities, but none, in my opinion, as important as representation for its membership.

We owe **Dan** and **Dave** a great deal of gratitude for their trips to Columbus without reimbursement, except perhaps for mileage, to fight for our pension plan and health care benefits. When they speak on our behalf, they need the support of the membership to let the politicians know that they are speaking for all of us who belong to ORTA and PCRTA.

The new changes in our pension plan have been in the works since 2009, when our representatives and others realized that, due to the investment market downturn and demographic factors such as members living longer and the recession, the STRS pension plan could not remain solvent without some change. More detail about the process and changes can be found at www.strsoh.org/legislation/legislation.html.

Personally, I could not imagine trying to live without that pension—having to call upon social services, or Medicaid, or tax payer-funded public assistance to survive.

So if you think \$40 per year is too expensive, please reconsider your decision. Membership numbers count for representation! Please renew if you have not yet done so. Ask other retired teachers to join also.

WE NEED YOU AND I THINK YOU NEED US! *Helena*

Say Hello to Our Newest Member: 

Ruth Seton retired from Rootstown Schools in 2012.

WELCOME



TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff

Treasurer's Report August 2, 2011:

Beginning Checking Acct. Balance: \$ 8,658.26

Expenses: \$ 1,957.53

ORTA dues	770.00
NEOMED luncheon	1,080.00
G. Darrah—luncheon supplies	57.52
D. Fetterhoff—labels & postage	12.01
Margot Terry—luncheon speaker	35.00
September bank fee	3.00

Income: \$ 2,430.00

Dues, donations

Ending Balance: \$ 9,130.73

Scholarship Funds in Checking \$ 5,590.00

Working Amount in Checking \$ 3,540.73



CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL

Please check your address label to determine your dues status. Any item with a year indicates an annual membership. If you see 2011, this means your membership will be dropped if you do not pay your dues by December 15. If you pay by then, you will be paid through 2013.

I hope that it is just an oversight and that all of you who are in arrears will join again! Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

On the other hand, if 2012 appears on your address label, then your dues are current and you may pay your 2013 dues any time. Please call me at 330-673-8164 if you have questions.

Darlene



In Memoriam:

Virginia Kitchin, 94 years old, passed on September 25, 2012. Retiring from Kent City Schools in 1975, she earlier taught in Rootstown. Virginia was a member of ORTA and PCRTA for 21 years starting in 1991. Her husband, Paul, has also been a dual member since 1991. Our sincere condolences to Paul and the Kitchin family.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK by Pat Gynn



We currently have 72 members who receive their PCRTA Desktop newsletter via email. If you have email access and would like to be added to the list of members receiving their newsletter electronically, please send an email to me at patgynn@aol.com.



The newsletter is mailed out 3-4 weeks before each luncheon meeting. Please let us know if you have moved or will be away for the winter so we can send your newsletter to the correct address. If you are not at your address, the post office returns the newsletter to us for a fee.

More and more chapters are doing away with paper newsletters due to the high cost of printing and mailing. It is important to us to stay connected with our members, whether it be by mail or electronically. We are glad to have you as members, and would love to see you attend our luncheon meetings! Either way, thanks for being a member!

Pat

ADELE FUSSNER – WHAT A WOMAN – HER FIRST TRIATHLON AT AGE 75 by Dee Smith



One of our own members, Adele Fussner, participated in the Girls Tri Too Triathlon on Sunday, August 19, 2012 at Linwood Park in Vermilion, Ohio .

Adele reports that the race is a beginner's race and that 50% of the entry fee goes to the Susan G. Komen Ohio Affiliates. Adele's aunt had breast cancer.

The race began with a plunge into Lake Erie waters for a 250-yard swim, equal to 6 laps in an Olympic size pool. This was quite a feat for Adele. Until seven years ago, Adele was afraid of water. She credits her water aerobics' teacher, Fran Carly, at the Kent Roosevelt Natatorium for teaching her to swim and encouraging her to participate in this beginning race. (Ed. If you look in the background of Adele's picture, you will see Fran in the dark top and khaki shorts running along with her camera at the ready.)

Adele felt extremely protected during this part of the triathlon. She was the last swimmer in the water, and a fireman was in a kayak escorting her into shore. Furthermore the next group of participants was on shore waiting for their race to begin. As Adele emerged from the water, she was met with high fives and cheers to encourage her on the next leg of the race.

Adele then biked for seven miles. She was quite the talk of the race for two reasons: first, her contestant number and age had to be displayed on her calf (556 / 75) and second, her bike was the only one sporting a basket.

The last leg was a two-mile run/walk. Adele reports that the encouragement of her husband and her water aerobics teacher throughout the race made it possible for her to get through the burn which sets in during the last half of each leg. The wise words of her teacher, Fran Carly, "Look forward and keep pushing!" echoed in her mind throughout the race. We all could live by those words!

Adele proudly stated she won her division of the race, age 75 and up. She then laughed and added she was the only participant in that division. I found her times on line and found them quite impressive: swam 250 yards in 13:08 minutes; biked seven miles in 45:58 minutes; and ran/walked two miles in 33:07 minutes.

We all need to give Adele a **THATAGIRL** the next time we see her!

Dee

THOUGHTS ON PUSHING YOURSELF TO TRY SOMETHING NEW:

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do. Eleanor Roosevelt

**You will always miss 100% of the shots you don't take. Wayne Gretsky*

**If you don't take risks, you'll have a wasted soul. Drew Barrymore*

**Yes, risk taking is inherently failure-prone. Otherwise, it would be called sure-thing-taking. Tim McMahon*

**Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step. M. L. King, Jr.*

**Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together. Vincent Van Gogh*



OUR PENSIONS ARE SOLVENT—THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS!



Dan McCombs,
PCRTA
Legislative
Chair

After three long years of being involved in the future of our pension system, we can now announce that the Governor has signed into law a bill that will keep our STRS pensions solvent for the next thirty years.



I want to thank the members of the legislature for adopting a bi-partisan approach to this much needed legislation. My fears that a defined contribution plan would replace our current defined benefits plan were not realized. This will probably become the most important part of a bill in the future.

There are so many people to thank for this outcome, including the leadership of STRS, ORTA and the other state pension systems. Our own **David Gynn** deserves a real thanks for his behind-the-scenes work. What a great leader he has been for ORTA and the retirees in Portage County. I wish that all retired teachers could see the tangible results of membership. We cannot ease our vigilance on the legislature by sitting back and letting others do our job.

Get your friends to join PCRTA and ORTA so we can continue to let our representatives in Columbus know that we represent a large constituency and expect their support regardless of political affiliation. Finally, let me personally thank each of you who took the time to contact our representatives to let them know our feelings about the importance of our pensions. You made a difference!

Dan

PCRTA OFFICERS

President & ORTA Trustee: Ron Snowberger

Vice-President: Georgia Darrah

Recording Secretary: Ruth Weigand

Corresponding Secretary: Barb Cribbs

Treasurer: Darlene Fetterhoff

Assistant Treasurer: Ria Mastromatteo

Past President: Dave Gynn

PCRTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archival: Norm Park

Community Service & Volunteer Hours:
Judy Morgan

Legislative: Dan McCombs

Membership: Helena Parry

Memorial and Sunshine:
Pat Mazzer (cards)
Dee Smith

NEOMED PROCTOR SCHEDULING:

Edith Scott

Newsletter Editor: Pat Gynn

Nominations: Jan Fencil

Pre-Retirement Planning:
Richard and Mary Ann Brockett

Protective & Informative Services:
Kay Wise

Public Relations: Georgia Darrah

Reservations: Marleen Strebler

Scholarship: Jim Montaquila

Social & Travel: John & Sandy Kerstetter

Telephone/ Need a Ride?: Evelyn Park

Webmaster: Connie Evans

Want to join this team??

Contact any one of us!



P
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A

MY PRECIOUS DOLL



Kay Wise, Chair of Informative & Protective Committee

When I was just two years old, my appendix ruptured. My mother was a supervising nurse, and she had her bed moved into my hospital room. I was very sick.

One evening, my grandfather, a tall stern German, walked through the door to visit. He was holding a beautiful doll for me. Her body was soft. Her head, arms and legs were made of wood. I loved my doll.

When I grew up, I wrapped my doll in blankets and stored her for years. She moved from house to house with me. You can imagine how sad I was when I unwrapped her and found that the wood had cracked from heat. I was very dismayed because it seemed as if I hadn't taken good care of my precious gift.

Recently, I read in a Sunday *Akron Beacon Journal* than an artist in Fairlawn had restored a doll that had been on the Titanic. I began to wonder if she could restore my doll.

She could and she did. I was delighted!

My restored doll is beautiful and sits on a chair in the living room not far from a picture taken at our wedding with my grandparents. You can imagine what fond memories the doll evokes.



Others have mentioned to me that they have dolls from their own childhood that are in poor condition. If you have a doll that you would like to have refurbished, contact: Toland Dolls, 25 Ghent Road, Fairlawn, Ohio, 44333. The Toland Dolls phone number is 330-865-7349.

Kay

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 22— Meet the Candidates;
Kent Free Library, 11 am.
Tell your friends to join us.

November 8—Board Meeting

November 15—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting Program:
Speaker Deborah Easton,
“Combating Negativity in Today’s Society;”
Officer Election & Installation

December 13—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting— Christmas Party;
Music by Forever Harmony Acapella Chorus;
“Christmas at Rock-Away Rest” by PCRTA Players

SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE 2013 PCRTA PROGRAMS FOR NEXT YEAR:

January 10 – Organizational Board Meeting

LUNCHEON MEETING DATES

March 21

May 16

July 18

September 19

November 21

December 19

The Board meetings will be held one week prior to each luncheon meeting date for March through November.



The Executive Board meetings are held at the Kent Public Library at 9:30 am one week before each luncheon meeting.

The PCRTA luncheon meetings are held at noon at the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED, Northeast Ohio Medical University, 4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272 across the street from Rootstown High School.

MEETING MINUTES - Ruth Weigand, Secretary



Highlights from the last Executive Committee and luncheon meetings are provided below. Many meeting details are included in other reports in this newsletter. A complete set of detailed minutes is available to any PCRTA member. Call **Ruth Weigand** (330-673-4788), email PCRTA@aol.com, or locate the complete minutes on our website (www.pcrta.net).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - September 13, 2012

–President **Ron Snowberger** called the meeting to order with 16 members in attendance.

–The minutes were taken by Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs**. She said she had received more responses from past scholarship recipients updating their status. She will send them to **Connie Evans** for inclusion on our web page.

–Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported we have a checking account balance of \$8,658.26, which includes \$5,452 in scholarship funds. She said our application for a 501(c)3 status is in review and may take about three months to get a response.

–**Ron Snowberger** spoke about a change in our PCRTA investment strategy. Bonds are predicted to lose value, so some of our bond funds have been moved to a new Dividend Growth Fund.

–VP **Georgia Darrah** presented the proposed calendar for 2013. The organizational meeting will be January 10.

–**Ron Snowberger** reminded the committee we need to keep our membership numbers high so we don't lose our ORTA Trustee representation.

–**Norm Park**, Archivist, shared the *Record-Courier's* full page "spread" on our scholarship luncheon. He praised **Georgia Darrah** for her job promoting PCRTA.

–Community Services Chair **Judy Morgan** reminded the group about turning in volunteer hours to reach our goal of 10,000 hours for this year. She said we have targeted organizations with ongoing needs for our community service collections, such as nonperishable foods for the Center of Hope and gloves, hats, and mittens for the County Clothing Center.

–Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** reported the pension fund legislation has passed. Changes go into effect January 2013, but most will not be implemented until July or later.

–**Dan** has arranged a Meet the Candidates meeting for October 22 at 11 am at the Kent City Library.

–**Helena Parry**, Membership Chair, is still targeting new retirees. Everyone needs to help the membership grow.

–Sunshine Chair **Dee Smith** reported 15 cards had been sent out—9 for illnesses, 3 sympathy cards, and 3 for congratulations.

–Nominations Chair **Jan Fencil** accepted **Ron's** resignation as President and commended him for his service. She presented the slate of officers to be voted on at the November luncheon: President, **Helena Parry**; Assistant Treasurer, **Ria Mastromatteo**; Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs**. She said **Dave Gynn** has agreed to replace **Helena Parry** as Membership chair.

–PR Chair **Georgia Darrah** has asked member **Adele Fussner** about submitting an article about Adele's participation in a triathlon.

–Reservations Chair **Marleen Strebler** reported she had received 75 reservations for the September luncheon. **Ron** and **Georgia** will meet with NEOMED to set up dates and menus for next year's luncheons.

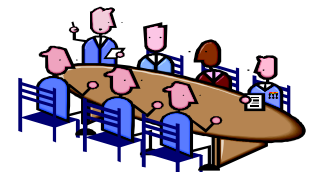
–Scholarship Chair **Jim Montaquila** shared some thank you notes from scholarship recipients. He was thanked for his presentation. **Georgia Darrah** and **Connie Evans** were commended for the visual presentation that they had prepared.

–**Saroj Sutaria** announced she would be retiring from her job as Telephone/Communications chair as of the end of the year. **Evelyn Park** will remain on the committee.

–Webmaster **Connie Evans** said she has added a site map to our webpage at www.pcrta.net.

–Social Chairs **John** and **Sandy Kerstetter** reminded everyone about the "Apple Pie Tour" on October 18 at Beckwith's Orchard at 2 pm.

–**Edith Scott**, NEOMED Proctor Scheduler, donated an autographed copy of a book from the speaker at last summer's ORTA regional meeting to be used as a door prize.



PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING—September 20, 2012

—President **Ron Snowberger** welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

—He thanked **Virginia Buckley** and **Kathy Lilley** for acting as greeters.

—**Ron** said Ohio retired teachers have a strong voice in Columbus at ORTA because the legislators passed the bill sponsored by STRS keeping our defined benefits solvent for 30 years. The Governor still needs to sign the law.

—**Ron** asked everyone to bring a non-member to the next meeting. He also reminded people to pay their dues. He then introduced new member, **Ehrman Armstrong** of KSU, and visitor, **Ruth Seton**.

—Social Committee Co-chair, **John Kerstetter**, announced that the Beckwith Orchard tour will be October 18 at 2:00 pm at a cost of \$5 for fresh apple pie and ice cream. The tour includes a trolley ride through the orchard and a tour of the sorting/sale and tasting rooms. If interested, please call 330-673-0192 and make a reservation.

—Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** said this was a serious time with bi-partisan support to protect our pensions for 30 years. Dan thanked **Dave Gynn** for testifying in Columbus and going around Ohio to promote this plan.

—**Dan** thanked **Norm Park**, who was his seventh grade teacher, for his inspiration and his dedication.

—**Dan** invited all members to a Meet the Candidates session at the Kent Free Library at 11:00 am on October 22.

—**Ron** announced that there would be free blood pressure readings taken at the November 15 luncheon meeting.

—**Ron** made the following announcements:
* Call the Sunshine Chair if you know of a member who needs a card.
* **Edith Scott** gave **Barb Geisey** sign-up sheets for proctors to sign up to proctor NEOMED tests.
*He reminded members who volunteer to give their community service hours to **Judy Morgan** so she can turn them in to ORTA in December.
*He believes our chapter is the only one in the state to give seven scholarships.
*New officers will be elected and installed at the November luncheon.
***Ron** will remain our ORTA Trustee for one more year.
—**Dee Smith** gave a short history of Johnny Appleseed and then offered the meditation.

—**Ron** introduced the guest speakers for the Silver Sneakers program: **Debbie Tatro** and **Margo Terry**. They stressed strength training and range of movement for people past age 50.

—**Janet Zimmerman** won the 50/50 drawing, receiving \$62 out of the \$125 collected.

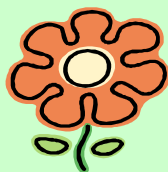
—**Jim Montaquila** won the drawing for a novel donated by **Edith Scott** titled *No Child Left Behind*.

—**Ron** introduced PCRTA member **Adele Fussner** who recently won a competition in the Girls' Tri Two Triathlon in the 75+ age group.

—**Ron** reminded everyone that the new ORTA Cookbooks will be arriving soon. They will cost \$10. He will have them at the November luncheon meeting.



Know of anyone who needs a card for illness, sympathy, or congratulations?
Call or email Pat Mazzer and she will send that person a card from PCRTA.
330-673-3174 or
patmazzer@aol.com



 Need a ride to the luncheon?
Call Evelyn Park at
330-274-2171
and she will see you get there!

Check your address label...are your dues up to date? If you are a life member, don't worry. If yours says 2012, it should say 2013 — so send in your check!



LOOKING BACK AT ELOCUTION by Norm Park, Archivist

Some time ago I wrote about the “death of cursive,” how that once-important school subject has taken a flying leap into the dust bin. There seems to be no need to teach handwriting (which at one time was considered one of the arts).

Our advanced communication skills have rendered it obsolete. Just press a few keys (no, that sounds like a typewriter)—er, a series of little buttons or squares and you quickly communicate with your friend across the table or across the Atlantic.

Maybe we shouldn’t say just the end of cursive—but the slow death of writing, period. However, there’s no authentic way of affixing a genuine signature or passing a note in class using high tech. Is there?



But writing is not the only art form that has disappeared from the scene. Long gone from the classroom is elocution—the art of speaking. Yes, we all speak, some with the majesty of a Barrymore and others who slur, garble and mumble their way through life.

Old school masters would not put up with the slurring and the garbling. You recited distinctly and with clarity, affording every vowel its due.

The teaching of proper speech may still linger as students struggle with the senior play or for those who have joined Toastmasters.

Where to start on this downhill slide? How about our evening companion, our living room television set.

Have you noticed the beautiful blondes and handsome young men who are bigwigs in the NYPD or the FBI? Both can rattle a long series of sentences, rotely and

beautifully memorized, after which I turned to my wife and asked, “What did she just say?” Ev shrugged. She had no idea either.

And there’s that good looking investigator who speaks without opening his mouth. I simply pass on shows of that kind (and my hearing is fine).

Let’s not forget radio either. There’s a classical music program I listen to in the evening. What a shock after hearing a gorgeous piece of music to hear the hosts come on and completely destroy the mood of the just-played music. A lifeless voice and lazy lips for him and a just plain unpleasant voice for her. Fortunately, there are two such stations.

Politicians have pretty much learned the art of speaking for it is in their best interest. You want to sell yourself, sell your ideas, then learn to speak.

The spoken word at one time was considered very important and played a significant role in early education. My father did what I thought was a rather strange thing when I was about fourteen. He would hand me a poetry book (Lowell, Wordsworth, Whittier) and place a chair for himself about forty feet from me.

I made a selection, then commenced to read to him. He coached me in the basics, but what they were I don’t remember. However, something did rub off and I have been forever thankful.

It is such a shame! There’s so much latent yet wasted talent out there that in just an hour or two a week with the right instructor, kids could get a solid leg up in their journey in our very competitive world.

Norm

PONDERISMS...HMMM, IT MAKES YOU WONDER...

Does pushing the elevator button more than once make it arrive faster???? Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog’s face, he gets mad at you, but when you take him on a car ride, he sticks his head out the window???? If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him???? How is it that one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire???? Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They’re both dogs!!!! How come we have to pick a president from two people, when we pick Miss America from 50???? When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily...it’s a valuable plant.



Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, NOVEMBER 15 12 noon
RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED
4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



Buffet Menu: Oven-Fried Chicken Breast, Stuffed Shells, Au Gratin Potatoes, Steamed Broccoli, Rolls/Butter, Coffee/Tea, and Assorted Desserts. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the Day will be made available to take the place of the chicken entrée.

Number of buffet lunch reservations _____ and names (for name tags). Please print and mark clearly.**

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$12 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 desiring a Vegetarian Entrée.*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY November 8. Mail your reservation and check made to PCRTA to:
 Marleen Strebler, 3109 St. Rt. 183, Atwater, OH 44201 330-947-2460 marleenstrebler@yahoo.com



BRING TO THE MEETING: Non-perishable foods or \$ to buy turkeys for the Center of Hope

Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, DECEMBER 13 12 noon
RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED
4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



Buffet Menu: Beef Tips Stroganoff, Carved Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Winter Veggie Blend, Rolls/Butter, Coffee/Tea, and Assorted Desserts. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the Day will be made available to take the place of beef or ham entrée.

Number of buffet lunch reservations _____ and names (for name tags). Please print and mark clearly.**

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$12 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 desiring a Vegetarian Entrée.*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY December 6. Mail your reservation and check made to PCRTA to:
 Marleen Strebler, 3109 St. Rt. 183, Atwater, OH 44201 330-947-2460 marleenstrebler@yahoo.com

BRING TO THE MEETING: Hats, gloves, or mittens for the County Clothing Center





PCRTA—Portage
County Retired
Teachers Association

Address Service Requested

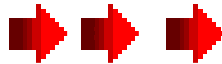
Darlene Fetterhoff, Treasurer
2417 Duck Pond Drive
Ravenna, OH 44266-8221
Please notify PCRTA of any address
changes.

ADDRESS CODES

S= State P=Portage
Year= Your membership is paid through
the year indicated
S= Life Member of ORTA—Ohio Retired
Teachers Association
P= Life Member of PCRTA—Portage
County Retired Teachers Assn.
A= Associate member of PCRTA

E-mail: PCRTA@aol.com

Visit our website



Connie Evans,
Webmaster

Already an ORTA and PCRTA member or a Life Member? Pass this form on to another retired teacher who isn't!



2013 PCRTA AND ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement District & Year _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____
(Requested by ORTA for a new member at initial joining.)

E-mail Address _____

Gift Membership from _____

2013 DUES PAYMENT

PCRTA & ORTA ANNUAL DUES:

(PCRTA \$10 + ORTA \$30) = \$40 _____

PCRTA Life Membership= \$150 _____

ORTA Life Membership = \$500 _____

Scholarship Fund Donation _____

TOTAL _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by email
rather than a paper copy in the mail.



Make one check payable to PCRTA.

Mail completed form and check to:

Darlene J. Fetterhoff, Treasurer, 2417 Duck Pond Drive, Ravenna, OH 44266