



THE DESKTOP

The newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association
Volume 25 Issue 5 Nov.-Dec. 2015



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Carolynn Rae

WRITER, HUMORIST CAROLYN RAE IS FEATURED SPEAKER AT PCRTA

NOVEMBER MEETING by Georgia Darra

If you like to have fun and enjoy some laughter along the way, you will not want to miss PCRTA's November 19th luncheon. Guest speaker Carolyn Rae, humorist and well-known writer and newspaper columnist, will tickle our funny

bones as she presents, "Out of My Mature Mind." Carolyn will help us see the humorous side of such things as age spots and creaking joints. You will quickly discover her passion for encouraging others to live life to the fullest.

TIME TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP by Dave Gynn

Now is the time to renew your membership for 2016. Look at the address label on your newsletter.

If it says "**life**" - Thank you for your loyalty, and congratulations on being a wise investor.

If it says "**2015**" - Your dues for 2016 are now due. Membership dues are collected between July and December for the following year.

If it says "**2016**" - Your dues are paid for next year.

The code **S** stands for state (ORTA); the code **P** stands for Portage (PCRTA).

If you receive your newsletter via email, check with the treasurer (330-678-8423) about your membership status.

Annual dues are **\$40** - \$30 for ORTA and \$10 for PCRTA. Send a check made payable to PCRTA. All dues should be sent to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Ln, Kent, OH 44240. Your state dues will be forwarded to ORTA.

Your annual dues can be converted to a life membership. PCRTA life membership is \$150. ORTA is \$500 and can be made in payments. Contact ORTA (877-431-7002) for details.

A big yellow school bus is a reminder that you are retired, you won't go to school today and you need to pay your dues.

PCRTA DECEMBER MEETING and LUNCHEON - DECEMBER 17, 2015, at the RAVENNA ELKS CLUB 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio 44240

THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS: FAMILIAR AND NOVEL WITH LEN SUZELIS AND MARTY THATHCER by Georgia Darrah

Our December 17th luncheon will feature PCRTA members Leonard (Len) Suzelis and Martha (Marty) Hatcher presenting, "The Sounds of Christmas Carols and Songs." Both retired from Southeast Local School as music teachers, with Marty's area of expertise in elementary general music, while Len assisted with the high school marching band and taught middle school general music and middle school choirs. Marty served as the accompanist for most of Len's concerts.

Marty has a home piano studio where she has taught many students. She has been an organist at Edinburgh United Church for 25 years and has been an adjunct professor for the Salem Campus of Kent State University. She and her husband Richard were working members of the former McConnell Fruit Farm of Edinburg.



Marty Hatcher

Len Suzelis

Len has also been a church musician, singing, playing folk guitar and keyboard since he was a teenager. His musical experiences have taken him from a top 40s group, to a gospel group, to singing sacred oratorios and even a professional opera. He musically leads worship along with his wife Kay, whom he met while studying voice at YSU and with whom he has collaborated on composing/arranging numerous original pieces for church use.

Prepare to listen to a holiday musical treat of carols and songs of Christmas and be ready to join in with tenor Len Suzelis and accompanist Marty Hatcher as they musically usher us into the Christmas season.



Ron Snowberger

Trustee Report by Ron Snowberger

It has been a great opportunity and pleasure to serve as the PCRTA Trustee for ORTA the past four years. As the term cannot exceed four years, I get a rest. Your new trustee will be Helena Parry, who will do an excellent job. Helena and I will be going to Columbus to attend the Fall Board meeting for ORTA on October 22. We will have a report for you at the November Board and general meetings.

Please give Helena your full support as she will be your eyes and ears on matters such as social security, STRS, charter school concerns and legislative matters. Your STRS and health benefits are dependent on YOU and your contributions.

RON, THANK YOU FOR THE DEDICATED SERVICE TO ORTA/PCRTA.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Medical ID Theft by Kay Wise.



The following is a summary of an article in the **Akron Beacon Journal**, Sunday, September 6, 2015, Section D. One type of ID theft is medical ID theft. It can range from someone getting medical goods or prescriptions to actual medical procedures in your name. Theft could also affect your health. There is a San Diego-based Identity Theft Resource Center, a nonprofit group that offers free help to victims (www.idtheftcenter.org or 888-400-5530).

The “thief” and victim’s medical information, diagnosis and allergies to certain drugs are now intermingled. It can be hard with medical privacy laws to get the full record or untangle them.

Medical ID theft bills are not covered by the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, which limits consumers’ losses if someone uses their credit information. Medical ID theft affected about 2.3 million people last year. Incidents of medical ID theft are growing. Interestingly, about 50 percent of all medical theft is committed by friends and family of the victim.

“Protect yourself...

Aetna/Medical Identity Fraud Alliance offers these tips to guard against medical ID theft.

Be careful with your member ID card and keep personal information personal.

Be on guard even if someone claims to be with your health plan.

If you are uneasy giving information to someone who says they are from your health plan, don’t do it.

Instead, call the number on your ID card.

Make sure “free” is free.

Review your explanation of Benefits statements for anything you don’t recognize.

Check your credit report often. Consumers are entitled to one free credit report per year from

www.annualcreditreport.com or 877-322-8228.”

All of the experts say it is important for consumers to be aware of potential problems and keep a close eye on their Explanation of Benefits for anything suspicious.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBER, SAROJ SUTARIA



Saroj Sutaria

Kent State University Distinguished Service to Education, Health and Human Services Award: Saroj Sutaria, Ph.D.

Born in Nagpur, India, Saroj Sutaria arrived in the U.S. in 1962 to study and obtain her doctorate in education. She had already earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in India, and she went on to receive another master’s degree and Ph.D. in special education at Syracuse University. Upon graduating, she came to Kent State in 1967 to begin her teaching career, and she has remained in Kent ever since. From 1967-92, Sutaria was a full-time faculty member in the Department of Teacher Development and Curriculum Studies, specializing in the field of specific learning disabilities. She has remained very active with Kent State, as well as the Kent community.

Written by the College of Education, Health and Human Services at Kent State University.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE NEWS by Dan McCombs

Carol Kinsey, our state legislative chair, wants me to share an alert from Ann Hanning, our current Executive Director. This issue is most likely going to impact many of us beginning January 1, 2016. There will be an official announcement from Social Security sometime in October regarding the final stance on this issue.

If you are receiving STRS only (or any other pension that is not Social Security), as of now it looks like we could be hit hard with a premium increase for Medicare B. Depending on which STRS Health Care Insurance you have, you may also notice a premium increase which could potentially add up to a total health care increase that is greater than your COLA. This has the result of eating away at your pension even though the actual total pension amount is not impacted. It is my understanding that Aetna Medicare Advantage is going up \$10 per month and Aultcare will also see quite a jump in premium, as it did last year. The estimated premium hike (Medicare B) would be on a base of \$104.90 to \$159.30 for impacted beneficiaries. This move will certainly impact most of us - how about you?



Dan McCombs

ORTA will be scheduling lobbying visits with Ohio Congress persons in Washington and will share any critical information when they return.

If you are concerned about the future of Charter Schools in Ohio, you should be. On September 15th, the Ohio Supreme Court made a decision in the White Hat case. The upshot of the decision is that property purchased by White Hat with public funds now belongs to White Hat. Justice O'Neill's dissent from opinion and judgement stated, "I would hold that a contract that vests title to public property purchased with public funds in a private entity violates public policy and is unenforceable as a matter of law. To do anything else rewards failure and encourages its repetition in the future in the name of profit." In my opinion, it is a shame that a majority of the other justices did not share this view.

I hope you have had a good summer, and I look forward to seeing you this fall.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO PCRTA/ORTA by Judy Hendershot, Membership Chairperson



Judy Hendershot

Welcome to our newest PCRTA/ORTA members: Rose Gee, Barry Fetterhoff, Donna Crews, Christopher DeMarco, Marilyn Livengood, Eddie Renfro and Cathleen Rufener. Thank you to all who have already renewed your memberships for 2016.

PCRTA is the voice of Portage County retired educators working collaboratively with Ohio Retired Teachers Association to advocate and promote the improvement of our pensions, benefits and services. That partnership works best for you and me if our number of dual memberships remain competitive with other local chapters so that we can retain our representation down-state with our own trustee. If your memberships are renewed yearly, now is a good time to send them along to our treasurer, Dave Gynn. Numbers do count.

SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE FUN by Pat and Dave Gynn

History came alive right before our eyes when 50 people attended the PCRTA D-Day trip to Conneaut on August 22, 2015, for the reenactment of the landing on Omaha Beach. Landing vehicles dropped off loads of soldiers, who made their way across the beach using smoke bombs while being shot at by men in bunkers, jets flying overhead and large bombers swooping in from above. The re-enactors were dressed in authentic uniforms, using period motorcycles and guns.

The group stopped at the Smolen Gulf covered bridge for lunch, the longest and highest one of the many covered bridges in Ashtabula County. Pat and Dave Gynn planned the trip, which ended with dinner at Ferrante Winery.



Men who re- enacted the battle at Conneaut



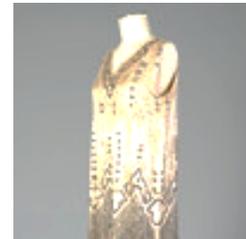
Pat & Dave Gynn- Sandy & John Kerstetter

SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE

Mark your calendar to join us.

November 5, 2015 – **10 a.m.** tour in the **Fashion Museum** at Kent State University at 515 Hilltop Drive off Main St. in Kent with lunch following at **Bricco's** at 210 S. Depeyster St. in Kent, OH 44240. "The Bricco Kent menu features favorites from the flagship Akron location, unique entrees and appetizers you can only find here and the best pastry chef in town!" Contact Denise Craig 330-931-0510.

The Kent State University Museum will present its new exhibit, "Flapper Style: Fashions of the 1920s," in the museum's Broadbent Gallery.



December 20 (Note change of date!) **4 p.m.** Western Reserve Band Concert at **Hudson Congregational Church** at 47 Aurora St., Hudson off N. Main St. (91) with dinner following the concert at **Zeppe's** in Hudson at 5843 Darrow Rd., Hudson, OH 44236. Contact Kay Wise at 330-297-1110 or Ken Grandville at 330-626-2154.

TREASURES' REPORTS as of 9/30/15

PCRTA Checking Balance \$ 4,919.80

PCRTA Savings Balance \$ 605.00

PCRTA Stifel Balance 8/31/15 \$27,694.90

Scholarship Savings Balance \$7,734.16

Scholarship Checking Balance \$ 9,895.14

Scholarship Stifel Balance 8/31/15 \$47,587.68



Dave Gynn



Darlene Fetterhoff

RENEW YOUR PCRTA/ORTA MEMBERSHIP

SEND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO PCRTA

**MAIL YOUR FORM (on the last page) AND CHECK TO
Dave Gynn
4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, Ohio 44240**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT by Jan Fencil, Chairperson of Nominations

2016 Nominations include: **Vice President:** Georgia Darrah; **Treasurer:** Dave Gynn; **Recording Secretary:** Carole Stokes; **Trustee:** Helena Parry. They will take office in January 2016 for two years. The election and installation of officers will take place at the Nov.19, 2015, Luncheon Meeting at the Elks Club.

Jan made the motion to accept the nominations, seconded by Connie Evans. Motion passed.



Georgia Darrah



Dave Gynn



Carol Stokes



Helena Parry

Other actions at the Sept. 10, 2015, Executive Committee Meeting included that Jan Fencil made a motion to accept the 2016 calendar, seconded by Ron Snowberger. The motion passed

Dates for the 2016 Executive Committee meetings are as follows: planning meeting Jan. 14, Mar. 10, May 12, July 14, Sept. 8, Nov. 10.

Luncheons will be March 17, May 19, July 21, Sept. 15, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Helena Parry was approved for Trustee for 2016.

TWO PCRTA/ORTA MEMBERS INDUCTED INTO THE RAVENNA RAVENS HALL OF FAME: CONGRATULATIONS TO AMY ADAMS AND JOANNE STIKES

The Ravenna Ravens Hall of Fame was established in 1989 by Dr. Thomas King, superintendent of Ravenna schools at that time. There are five categories in which nominees may be nominated, and four of the five must be graduates of Ravenna High School. Plaques are presented to each of the inductees with a biography of their achievements and their portrait, sketched by artist Sheila Liston, past Hall of Fame inductee and graduate of Ravenna High School. A second plaque is then hung in the Hall of Fame showcase at Ravenna High School.

Amy Adams currently serves as the director and grant coordinator of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers after-school programs at Brown Middle School and Ravenna High School. She is now an employee of the Community Action Council of Portage County. Prior to this involvement with the CAC of Portage County, Amy taught for 30 years in the Ravenna School District. She was awarded National Board Teacher Certification in 1994. During her teaching career she served as chairperson of the Ravenna Local Professional Development Committee, staff development leader, a university adjunct professor, a grade level chairperson and a mentor of pre-service teachers.



Jo Ann Stikes worked in city and federal government, at the YMCA, at Fort Hayes army base daycare and taught fifth grade at Ravenna School District, where she also had a Junior Master Gardener Classroom. She was a Sunday school teacher, received a Teacher of the Year Award given by Ohio State University and was Citizen of the Year in the City of Ravenna. Jo Ann was involved in the Skeels Summer Computer Class Enrichment Project. First year teachers were mentored By Jo Ann, and she served as a leader of a textbook selection committee. She was a Martha Holden Jennings Scholar and a liaison for the Skeels Community Center, as well as a member of Skeels Senior Club. She is a member of the Akron Urban league, NAACP, Portage County Historical Society, and she is in Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

RUTH WEIGAND TO RETIRE HER PEN



Ruth Weigand

PCRTA would like to thank Ruth Weigand for all of her dedicated years as the recording secretary for the PCRTA Executive Committee. Ruth served us with very detailed minutes of not only the Ex. Bd. meetings, but minutes of the PCRTA luncheons as well. Ruth likes to travel and is involved in her church. She enjoys luncheons with her many sisters on "Sister Day," movies, reading, eating out, line dancing, visiting her friends, and she especially enjoys visiting her son in N. Carolina and her daughter in Florida. We will miss Ruth's attention to detail, but we expect to see her at our luncheons enjoying her freedom. THANKS, RUTH.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION:

FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2015, at noon at the **RAVENNA ELKS 776 N. FREEDOM ST. , RAVENNA, OHIO 44266**

Cost is \$14.00 per person.

MENU: Italian chicken, stuffed shells, mixed vegetables, escalloped potatoes, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea, water, lemonade.

Number of buffet reservations: _____ Please list names(for name tags). Print and mark **if guest or new members. _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for luncheon reservations.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the scholarship fund.

SERVICE PROJECT: Please bring non-perishable items for the Center of Hope.

MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by NOV. 9, 2015.

Mail your check payable to PCRTA and reservation form to:

PAT FARLEY 5625 State Route 5, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

330-297-0980 patkgтч2@aol.com

LUNCHEON RESERVATION:

FOR DECEMBER 17, 2015, at noon at the **RAVENNA ELKS 776 N. FREEDOM ST., RAVENNA, OHIO 44266.**

COST IS \$14.00 per person

MENU: Baked ham, cheese potatoes, smothered green beans, vegetable lasagna, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, tea, water, lemonade.

Number of buffet reservations: _____ Please list names(for name tags). Print and mark **if guests. or new members. _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for luncheon reservations.

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the scholarship fund.

SERVICE PROJECT: Please bring items for children such as hats, gloves mittens, scarves.

MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by Dec. 9, 2015.

Mail your check payable to PCRTA and reservation form to:

PAT FARLEY 5625 State Route 5, Ravenna, Ohio 44266

330-297-0980 patkgтч2@aol.com



Brenda Nixon

PCRTA SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON REVIEW

Brenda Nixon, author, mother, wife, speaker, educator and mentor to ex-Amish, gave a very moving and interesting presentation at our September 2015 luncheon. She spoke mostly about the customs of the Swartzentruber and Old Order Amish. Her son-in-law, who is an ex-Amish, gave her a pair of small pants to display, as well as a small baby outfit that both boys and girls wear until they are potty trained.

In one of Brenda's most recent books, *Beyond Buggies and Bonnets*, author Cathy Messecar stated that the book, "provides a close look at everyday life in the Swartzentruber and conservative Old Order Amish. Nixon's research and authentic experiences provide little known facts. With careful attention to the personal

needs of ex-Amish, Nixon and her family have befriended many and helped them find their way into the foreign world of the "English." A striking and significant work!" For more information go to Brenda's blog site at www.BrendaNixonOnAmish.Blogspot.com

A LITTLE HISTORY

"Our assignment was to study 2008 membership reports returned on January 15, 2009. Sixty-eight of our 90 chapters returned reports." By the chairperson of the ORTA Membership Committee

CAN THIS WORK IN 2015? IDEAS ! email hmparry@att.net or davegynn9@aol.com or jhender431@aol.com

Retain Members: (taken from the ORTA Membership Committee review of chapter reports – published in 2009)

1. Mail cards to delinquent members and let them know that they are missed. Personal contact is always in order. (Morrow Co.)
2. Continue to contact retired teachers who have been retired for several years but never joined. Invite them back. (Butler Co.)
3. Let chapter members know that you miss them when they miss a meeting or two. Show you care. (Scioto Co.)
4. Discuss problems. Example – transportation. Appoint a Transportation Committee. People with health problems or who have no transportation may still want to attend. Help them get to the meetings! (Pickaway Co.)
5. Award certificates for 25+ years of membership. Place photos of members in local papers. Send a copy to your Historian and local archives.
Have a meeting at a local library or historical society. Let members know that you are preserving local history of hard working teachers. (Pickaway Co.)
6. Personal invitations. Have member volunteers call and bring non-attending members. Try to solve the problems that are keeping them away. (Summit Co.)
7. Have GOOD programs. Music! Participation! Silent Christmas auction of baked goods wreaths, crafts, etc. (Scioto and Fairfield Co.)
8. Hobby sharing meeting - Game day meeting - School Art Day set-up - Think out-of-the-box. (Pickaway Co.)
- 9.. Challenge. Have a Saturday welcome back picnic or an after school get-together for members who have gone back to substitute, teach or work. (Vinton Co.)
10. Continue contact for several years. Do not give up. Retirees may have more time in later years and need more fellowship. (Butler Co.)

PCRTA members, we need your involvement. Help gain and retain our membership.

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 2014and
would be due at this time in 2015.

WWW.pcrta.net

Karen Balog

Connie Evans



Thanks to Pat Gynn for extras photos for this issue.

Webmasters

2016 PCRTA/ ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement District & Year _____

Mailing address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

PCRTA \$10.00- ORTA \$30.00 = \$40.00 _____

Scholarship donation _____

PCRTA Life Membership = \$150.00 _____

ORTA Life Membership = \$500.00 _____

Total of check _____

Make check payable to PCRTA. Complete the form and mail both to:

Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240

DUES Paid Now will credit to 2016. WE NEED YOU - YOU NEED PCRTA/ORTA.

