

## THE DESKTOP



A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association  
Volume 26

PCRTA **50 years**



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### **ORTA and HABITAT for HUMANITY JOIN HANDS**

Habitat for Humanity is a global, nonprofit housing organization dedicated to building, renovating and repairing homes so every man, woman and child has the opportunity to live in a simple, durable and safe environment and community.

This year, ORTA and Habitat for Humanity are joining hands to work together on Habitat projects throughout the state. In order for PCRTA to know more about Habitat, Diana Zuranski, Program Manager for Habitat of Humanity Portage County, will be the guest speaker at our March luncheon. Diana oversees all of the volunteers and staff involved at building sites and at the Restore located in Kent. She also assists with organizing and planning any special events. Diana and her husband Mark live in Kent and are the parents of two grown daughters.

PCRTA is looking forward to meeting Diana and learning how we can become involved and give support to Habitat for Humanity of Portage County.



### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Helena Parry**

Happy New Year! I would again like to thank all of the PCRTA officers, committee chair people, volunteers, luncheon attendees and supporters for making 2015 a successful PCRTA year.

There are some exciting and interesting things planned for 2016 with Dave Gynn as the chairperson of the PCRTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. You will be able to enjoy at our luncheons a new "Fifty Years or So of Collecting" display. Ron Snowberger will display some of his stamps at the March luncheon, along with Pat Gynn, who will display her frog collection. If you are interested in displaying a collection or hobby at a luncheon, please contact me at [hmparry@att.net](mailto:hmparry@att.net).

We will add non-monetary prizes to the 50/50. We want 50 new members. We want 50 more volunteers to report their hours to Judy Morgan. We want 50 people willing to edit the newsletter! We want people to donate to a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Legacy Scholarship. (more to follow)

Perhaps we can offer 50 people donating to Habitat Restore and offer more help to Habitat. Ron Snowberger will coordinate the events for PCRTA with the Portage County Habitat Office.

I am looking forward to working again with PCRTA for 2016!

**MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot**

When ORTA State Legislative Chair, Carole Kinsey, spoke briefly at our December luncheon meeting, she praised PCRTA for its forward progress and its exemplary leadership. She commended our membership progress and stressed the importance of dual memberships, which continue to give us trustee representation at the state level. All of this is thanks to you as a result of your continued commitment to PCRTA/ORTA. The reality here is that each membership has a voice, and, now more than ever, retired teachers of Ohio are in need of a chorus to continue to protect that for which we have worked throughout our careers.

In her message in ORTA's Winter Newsletter, President Carol Remington challenges us to "build relationships to grow memberships." To that end she cites strong connections with active teachers and administrators as a priority. Our membership committee has already begun to contact not only administrators, but also presidents of teachers' associations in Portage County, to form stronger partnerships as future retirees transition from active teachers' associations to the next level of support.

As you know, this year marks the 50th anniversary of PCRTA's existence. A special committee has been formed to plan a myriad of activities – some of them commemorative and some of them challenges for our next 50 years. As we celebrate our present and past members, we have set our sights on increasing this year's membership by recruiting, reclaiming and retaining 50 additional ones. Do you know an active teacher, a nonteaching supporter of education or a friend whose membership has lapsed? Please encourage them to contact me at [jhender431@aol.com](mailto:jhender431@aol.com) or by phone at 330-673-4576. Thank you.

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**IN MEMORY**

**Chloe Ann Small** passed away on July 3, 2009. She taught in Windham and was a life member of PCRTA.

**Robert W. Stanton** passed away December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the Laurel Lake Retirement Community in Hudson, OH. He held various teaching and administrative positions, including Principal of Willoughby High School and Principal of Kent Roosevelt, culminating in his serving as Superintendent of Kent City Schools. Later he served as Business Manager of Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine and then returned to education as the Superintendent of Plainwell City Schools in Plainwell, Michigan. Robert, who received his Ph. D. in Education from Harvard University, was a World War II veteran and a family man. His funeral services were held at the Presbyterian Church of Kent, with his burial at Standing Rock Cemetery in Kent, OH. Robert was a life member of PCRTA/ORTA.

**H. David Mohan passed away November 22, 2015.** David held four different degrees: a B.S. (Industrial Arts Ed.); a Master of Science (Industrial Ed.) from the University of Maryland; Master of Arts (Gerontology) from Kent State University and a Doctorate of Philosophy (Industrial Technology) from Ohio State University. David served in numerous leadership roles in higher education, business and industry, and non-profit organizations. He volunteered with Robinson Memorial Hospital Hospice, Summit County Alzheimer's Association, Portage Area Senior Services, United Christian Ministries, Holden Elementary School and the Kent Jaycees. David was extremely proud of his family members and their accomplishments. His career at Kent State University spanned forty-plus years. David was a life member of PCRTA/ORTA.

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**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The minutes for the September 15, 2015, were moved for acceptance by Darlene Fetterhoff and seconded by Georgia Darrah. The motion passed.

The Treasurers' Reports were given for both the 501(c)3 and the 501(c) 4 meetings.

Darlene Fetterhoff moved for acceptance of the treasurer 501(c) 4 report seconded by Georgia Darrah. The motion passed.

Ron Snowberger as trustee reported that suggestions made by him and Helena were well received at the ORTA Fall Bd. meeting in Columbus. He announced the ORTA Spring conferences are on **April 20<sup>th</sup> in Alliance**, April 12<sup>th</sup> in Zenia, April 13<sup>th</sup> in Findlay and April 19<sup>th</sup> in Cambridge. Ron reviewed the findings of the ORTA Survey/Needs Assessment compiled by Terrie Huston, an outside contractor who conducted the process. Ron's other reporting included: There is a new ORTA Executive Director, Dr. John Cavanaugh; the President of ORTA sent a letter to then Speaker of the House, John Boehner, to inform him that volunteer hours of service of retired teachers across Ohio equaled a monetary amount of \$11,813,629.30; ORTA has joined with Habitat for Humanity statewide and has asked local chapters to get involved; ORTA will work to gain more memberships this year.

Dave Gynn was appointed to serve as the Chairman of the Committee for Recruitment.

Eight members of PCRTA volunteered at the Phyllis Zumkher Clothing Center last Friday.

A letter of thanks was received from Big Brothers and Sisters for our donation of money and gift cards.

Georgia Darrah, Judy Hendershot and Dan McCombs offered to serve on the PCRTA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee chaired by Dave Gynn.

Jan Fencil announced the slate of incoming officers for 2016: Georgia Darrah, Vice-President; Carole Stokes, Secretary; Dave Gynn, Treasurer; and Helena Parry, ORTA Trustee.

The Executive Board agreed to pay the local dues for Janica John, Betty Park, Jean Porter and Mary Schillmiller. All were long-time life members of ORTA and past members of PCRTA.

Pre-Retirement Committee Co-Chair, Richard Brockett, announced that fliers will be sent to the Portage County Schools around March 1, 2016. The PCRTA-sponsored Pre-Retirement Conference will be held Thursday, April 19, 2016 at Channel 45/49 in Kent.

Georgia Darrah, Publicity Chairperson, submitted three articles to ORTA to be published in the Quarterly. Members being honored are Saroj Sutaria, Amy Adams and Joanne Stikes.

The KSU Orchestra Concert on Oct. 4, 2015, was attended by around 30 PCRTA members. Eight people attended the KSU Fashion Museum Tour on Nov. 5, 2015.

**HIGHLIGHTS of the NOVEMBER LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 19, 2015.**

Officers were installed. Ruth Weigand, retiring PCRTA Recording Secretary, and Ron Snowberger, Trustee, were honored for their past service. Carolyn Mostyn, the main speaker, kept us in laughter with her topic, "Out of My Mature Mind."

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DECEMBER LUNCHEON DECEMBER 17, 2015.**

Our own members Len Suzelis, Marty Hatcher and non- member Ted Suzelis, presented a holiday concert which included a Power Point presentation giving the history of each song they performed. On various songs PCRTA was invited to sing along. *The concert was a real crowd pleaser!*

Carol Kinsey, District 1X Director and ORTA Legislative Representative, spoke about the importance of our continued involvement in our local chapter and ORTA.

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**LEGISLATIVE By Dan McCombs**

I am really eager to hear from the new Executive Director of ORTA, Dr. John Cavanaugh, about his vision for us in the near future. We also want to extend our appreciation to Ann Hanning for her years of service to our organization. She did a terrific job lobbying the legislature.

I was reminded once again how important ORTA is to our pension's future when I received my yearly statement from STRS. Without our local support and lobbying for all retirees' benefits along with ORTA, we could lose our defined contribution status. I thank all of you that continue to respond to our requests for e-mails, letters and personal phone calls to our legislative representatives. Other than expanding our membership, nothing is more important for members of PCRTA to be involved with when called on by our leadership.

I don't know if I'm alone, but I am not sure how much more of the election season I can take. Regardless which party you belong to, I am concerned for the future of our country. We really need a person that will be a uniter and not a divider as President. So far I have not seen that person. Let's hope our country can overcome the acrimony in this election.

In closing, how about the horrible public relations for schools that appeared recently in the newspapers. Giving letter grades to schools based on test results for 3rd graders, without taking into account the socioeconomic background of the students or even how long they were residents of the school district puts an impossible burden on the administration to explain these meaningless grades to local residents. I am sure that this will lead to more teaching to the test than real education and learning.

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<b><u>PCRTA Treasury</u></b>	<b><u>2014 Balances</u></b>	<b><u>2015 Balances</u></b>
Checking Balance	\$ 5,188.15	\$ 5,647.69
Savings Balance	305.00	755.01
Stifel Balance	29,029.12	28,102.69
Scholarship Savings Balance	10,109.39	11,895.22
Scholarship Checking Balance	14,144.34	7,977.16
Scholarship Stifel Balance	24,610.34	48,504.78

For a full report, go to [pcrta.net](http://pcrta.net) or phone Dave Gynn at 330-678-8423.



Dave Gynn



Darlene Fetterhoff

## **LETTERS FROM FORMER PCRTA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:**

Hello,

After graduating from the University of Mount Union in 2014 with a B.S in Mathematics, I am happy to report I am teaching students 9th grade mathematics at the Cleveland High School for Digital Arts, a school which is, just like myself, entering its second year. Students here learn game design, film making and recording arts through a project-based curriculum that integrates their core subjects with these disciplines.

My first year was definitely a wild ride of successes and failures, all of which were valuable learning experiences for me. I am really excited about the potential of this school model and hope to see my colleagues and I continue to improve on our school in order to best serve our students, who come from all over the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Many thanks to the PCRTA for providing me with the scholarship in 2010. I appreciate their support in helping me to reach my goal of being able to teach and help young people learn.

Sincerely,  
Alex Wolfe

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Hello,

The scholarship money I was awarded helped me to purchase the necessary textbooks my freshman year at The University of Akron. It was such a relief not to have to worry about how I was going to afford all the textbooks I needed. It also gave me a year to work and save for the next year's purchases. I graduated this past December summa cum laude from The University of Akron, with a bachelor's degree in music education. I accepted a job at Firestone High School 3-4 weeks prior to graduation. I began working as a full time teacher this past January. I currently teach high school orchestra, three music theory courses and a music history course.

Thanks for helping me get started in education,

Molly McCreary  
Orchestra Director/Music Theory Instructor  
Firestone High School

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Hello!

My name is Kyle Dreger, and I was a 2010 graduate of Rootstown High School. I then went on to attend the University of Mount Union, where I got two majors: one in Computer Science and another in English Writing. I currently work for a software company in Canton, Ohio, called Synergy Data Systems. I'm responsible for designing interfaces for our websites, and I also do some computer programming.

I'm currently married to Emily Mariani (whom I met while at Mount Union), and we have a little puppy named Tika ("teacup" without the "p"). I have professional goals to continue doing great work for my company, and I'm also exploring the possibility of returning to graduate school, with the intention of getting my Ph.D in Computer Science.

Thanks again for the help back then - it made a difference! Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Kyle Dreger

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Hello,

Sorry for the delay in response. I am currently enrolled at the University of Mount Union and will begin my junior year in the fall. I am studying to get my licenses in Middle Childhood Education and Special Education. I love the path I am pursuing, and I cannot wait to be a teacher!

Sincerely,  
Samantha Cooper

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### **50/50 DRAWINGS TO INCREASE by Dave Gynn**

Now you have more reason to participate in the luncheon 50/50 drawings. We are adding a special gift basket to each drawing. The first ticket drawn can select the cash or the basket, and the next ticket gets what is left. The March luncheon will feature a “Cabin Fever” basket – jigsaw puzzles, game, wine, chocolate and a gift certificate. Increase your chances to win with multiple tickets – one for \$1; six for \$5; fifteen for \$10. The increase in income for PCRTA will help to pay the additional costs for our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

### **PCRTA – LOOKING BACK by Dave Gynn**

The Portage County Retired Teachers Association was organized 50 years ago, on September 15, 1966, at the KSU Meadowview Clubhouse. There were 57 members paying \$1.00 dues. Luncheon meetings alternated between Twin Lakes Country Club (\$3.00) and the Tallmadge Buffet (\$2.50 including tax).

Early programs were planned to make more understandable the problems educators faced as retirees – dealing with Medicare, National Retired Teachers Association, legislative concerns, insurance plans and state pensions. Pre-1955 retirees were receiving an average monthly pension of \$153.00.

We have come a long way in 50 years, and we plan to celebrate our anniversary all year. Our programs will focus on the history of education in Portage County, and we will look forward to the future in education. There will be many opportunities for members to engage in the celebration – watch for details in the Desktop newsletter or on our website ([www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net)).

### **DISPLAY MEMBER INTERESTS**

To help celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are adding a new feature to our luncheons – member interest displays. Come to the meetings early to view the collections, art work, travel souvenirs and interests of our members.

Ron Snowberger and Pat Gynn will display their collections at the March luncheon. Ron has been collecting postage stamps for years. He will display special commemorative postage stamps and first-day issues, as well as reference materials. He has several HUGE bins but will display only a small portion.

Pat Gynn will display her fifty favorite frogs. With a classroom theme of “Hop into First Grade,” students, parents and fellow teachers inundated her with many unusual frogs. She will show off a small part of her collection of stuffed animals, ceramic pieces, books, games and other interesting frogs.

### **News from the ORTA OFFICE**

In compliance with the ACA (affordable Care Act), STRS benefit recipients will begin receiving 1095-B forms next year for the tax year 2015. The 1095-B form reports each month during the year that minimum essential health care coverage has been provided. All STRS Ohio plans provided minimal essential coverage, which protects members from having to pay a penalty tax for not having qualified HC coverage.

STRS Ohio’s fully insured plans (Aetna, AultCare, Healthspan & Paramount) are responsible for issuing 1095s for all non-Medicare benefit recipient enrollees. Medicare benefit recipients enrolled in these plans will receive 1095-B forms from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) of their plan administrators. Ann W. Hanning

**AARP Smart Driver Program 2016**- Sponsored by the Tallmadge Recreation Department

The new four-hour smart driver course (formerly driver safety) is open to all licensed drivers age 50 and older. New Concepts are provided to better compensate for age related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. After completing this course, participants may qualify for a lower cost of car insurance. No tests are handed in and there is no actual driving. Trained volunteers conduct the sessions. Course Fee: \$15.00 for AARP members or \$20.00 for non-members.

*Please note registration and the classes are held at the: Tallmadge Community Center 80 Community Road Tallmadge, OH 44278 330-633-5610*

A total of four (4) hour classes are scheduled for 2016 on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. **February 18, May 19, August 18, November 17.**

Registration is limited and pre-registration is needed. **Please complete the pre-registration form and mail or drop off with your payment to the Tallmadge Community Center, 80 Community Road, located next to Tallmadge Library.**

Make Check/Money Order payable to AARP. DO NOT SEND CASH!!!!

PLEASE HAVE YOUR VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE WITH YOU AT THE CLASS.

THE KNOWLEDGEABLE MILT MAYHEW (330-633-5128) IS THE INSTRUCTOR. MILT'S BEAUTIFUL BRIDE OF 63 YEARS, LOUANNA, WILL GRACIOUSLY ASSIST HIM.

**AARP SMART DRIVER PROGRAM FOR 2016**

\_\_\_ Thursday, February 18, 2016      \_\_\_ Thursday, August 18, 2016  
\_\_\_ Thursday, May 19, 2016      \_\_\_ Thursday, November 17, 2016

PLEASE PRINT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is a check / money order, **PAYABLE TO AARP**, in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above named participant(s). I understand the fee is non-refundable, unless the department cancels the seminar. DO NOT SEND CASH.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **TRUSTEE REPORT by Helena Parry**

It has been requested by Carol Remington, President of ORTA, that as the Trustee for PCRTA, I serve on Survey/Needs Assessment Ad Hoc committee, as well as help to review the chapter report forms. The past PCRTA trustee, Ron Snowberger, will remain active in ORTA as part of the Membership and Finance Committees. Dave Gynn, Past President of ORTA, will serve on the ORTA Legislative Committee. The responsibilities of a Trustee are to serve on ORTA committees as well as represent the local chapter's concerns and support to ORTA.

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**ALL PCRTA MEMBERS ARE INVITED** {go to ORTA.org to register}

### **ORTA SPRING CONFERENCE In ALLIANCE on April 20, 2016h**

**First Christian Church of Alliance**

1141 W. BEECH ST.

Alliance, OH 44601

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM (EDT)

The morning general session includes Keynote Speaker, Dr. John Cavanaugh, ORTA Executive Director; Habitat for Humanity; and an STRS representative.

Two Breakout Sessions:

1:00 Session:

- **Treasurers'/Secretaries**
- **Public Relations/Community Services**
- **Chapter Presidents/Vice Presidents**

1:50 Session

- **Membership/Pre-Retirement Planning**
- **Technology**
- **Legislative/Informative and Protective Services**

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## **SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE**

**PLAY BINGO** by Dave Gynn.

Join PCRTA members and friends to play BINGO on Thursday, April 14, at the Field Restaurant meeting room, 4112 Brimfield Plaza, Kent. Play bingo at 10:00 and stay for lunch. Watch the Record Courier for discount coupons. Bring a white elephant for someone else to win. A white elephant is not a gag gift. It is something of value that you no longer need.

## **PRE-RETIREMENT**

Mary Ann and Richard Brockett will again chair this committee. They have planned a Pre-Retirement Workshop for Thursday, April 19, 2016, which be held at Channel 45-49 Building at 1750 Campus Drive off State Route 261 in Kent. This meeting is at 5-7p.m. with light refreshments and free information for Portage County educators and spouses. An attorney, a representative from STRS and a financial advisor will be the guest speakers.

**PCRTA LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM**

**The March 17, 2016, PCRTA Luncheon will be at The Ravenna Elks Club 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio – Cost is \$14.00 On-site caterer, David Weidaw, and his staff will be preparing the luncheon of:** meatloaf, rigatoni, green beans, escalloped potato, salad, dessert, rolls and butter, water, coffee, tea & lemonade.  
Number of buffet reservations \_\_\_\_\_  
List names (for name tags) Please print and mark clearly\*\* List your name and phone first.



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I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$14.00 for each luncheon reservation).  
I have enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the scholarship fund. \*\* Please indicate if any names listed are new members or guests. Write a V by those wanting a Vegetarian Entrée.

**PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by March 8, 2016.** Mail your check made out to PCRTA and reservations to:

**PAT FARLEY 5625 State Route 5, Ravenna, OH 44266 - 330-297-0980 [patkgotch2@aol.com](mailto:patkgotch2@aol.com)**

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Bring your items mentioned below to our March Luncheon.**



*Judy Morgan*

The PCRTA Community Service Project for March is to supply the County Clothing Center **with paper goods such as paper towels, toilet paper, table napkins and cleaning supplies** to be used by the volunteers and workers who clean the center once a month. On Fri. Jan. 29, 2016, eight PCRTA members volunteered at the Clothing Center. Thanks, Judy Hendershot, Jo Ann Stikes, Ruth Weigand, Ron Snowberger, Anita Foote, Ruth Seton, Phyllis Spangler and Helena Parry.

Also, we want to thank those of you who continue to proctor on a regular basis. Thanks to Edith Scott for coordinating this effort. NEOMED will sponsor a 'thank you party' for proctors on May 26, 2016. (more details to come)

**Please continue to send your volunteer hours** to Judy Morgan at [Grams4two@hotmail.com](mailto:Grams4two@hotmail.com). These hours are compiled at ORTA and used to show our value as retired teachers regarding involvement in volunteerism. OUR CURRENT PENSIONS PROVIDE US ENOUGH SO THAT WE CAN AFFORD TO VOLUNTEER.

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE PORTAGE COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WEBSITE TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP! <http://www.habitatforhumanityofohio.org/affiliates/name/habitat-for-humanity-of-portage-county/>  
More information will follow in our next issue about our involvement with Habitat for Humanity.

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

Karen Balog

Connie Evans



Webmasters

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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.**