THE DESKTOP
The Newsletter of Portage County Teachers' Association
Volume 25 Issue 5 October- December 2017

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PCRTA NOVEMBER 16, 2017, LUNCHEON

Speaker to Offer De-Cluttering Hints

Are you overwhelmed by stuff in your house? Is it time to right size your home? Would you prefer to make decisions about your possessions rather than leaving it to your kids to decide? Get your questions answered about who will buy or accept your no longer wanted/needed items. Get the 10 tips for staying organized, the three steps to getting started and leave with the most useful questions to ask yourself when making decisions. Our guest speaker in November is Lynne Poulton, a Certified Professional Organizer and owner of Wholly Organized!® LLC. She assists people of all ages to de-clutter, downsize, set up systems and maintain organization. Lynne is a Licensed Social Worker and, prior to starting her business in 2012, she spent 14 years working for a non-profit social service agency. This is a meeting you do will not want to miss.

Lynne Poulton

PLEASE BRING TO THE NOVEMBER LUNCHEON **NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS** TO SHARE WITH THE CENTER OF HOPE. PAPER PRODUCTS ARE ALSO NEEDED.THIS PROJECT IS OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY.

TUBA FOURS TO PERFORM FOR OUR DECEMBER LUNCHEON AT THE AMERICAN LEGION DECEMBER 14, 2017, AT 11:30A.M.

Tuba Fours

You will not want to miss our December Christmas Luncheon. We are going to enjoy a musical group called the Tuba Fours. They are a group of low brass players who could not get enough of Tuba Christmas. In fact, two of the members perform five or six concerts each season in various states. Since they all play together in the Metro Parks Ensemble (Summit County), they have turned four- part Tuba music into a year-round "obsession." The highlight of this year was taking fourth prize in the Portage Lakes 4th of July boat parade. Four of the members were public school or college-level educators.

PLEASE BRING TO THE DECEMBER LUNCHEON CHILDRN'S HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES or OUTERWEAR FOR WINTER. THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT FOR DECEMBER.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

You will find a membership update below. All members should complete this short form and return it as soon as possible. Members change addresses, phone numbers and email addresses often. We need to know your current status. We also value your opinion about our newsletter, luncheons meetings, web site, social activities and legislative activities. You may use a blank sheet of paper to add comments.

PCRTA Membership Update

Please complete this form to update and confirm your contact information and also to offer suggestions for your professional retired teachers' organization.
Return completed form to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Lane, Kent, OH 44240. Thanks.

Member Name _____

Year Retired _____ School District _____

Preferred Address _____

Preferred Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Email address (print clearly) _____

What would you like to see in the newsletter? _____

The newsletter will be sent via email to ALL members. Would you also like to have a copy mailed to you? ___ Are you willing to pay additional for mailing if necessary? ___

How often do you attend our **luncheon meetings?**
__Never ___Occasionally (at least once a year) ___ Often ___Never miss a meeting

Suggestions for programs _____

If you never attend, how could we entice you? _____

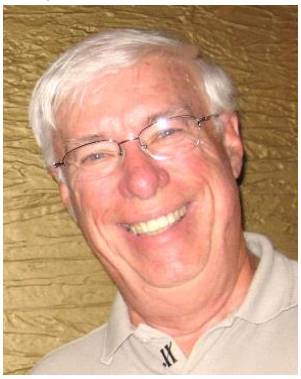
How often do you use our **Web Site**? __ never __ occasionally __ all the time
What content would you like to see on our website? _____

How often do you participate in our **Social Activities**? __ never __ sometimes
What social activities would you like? _____
How important are our active **Legislative Activities** for your retirement protection?
___ unimportant ___ somewhat important ___ critical for my retirement

Return completed from to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Lane, Kent OH 44240. Thanks.

LEGISLATIVE by Dan McCombs

Our new Executive Director, Robin Rayfield, wants us to know about the recent mailing that has been sent to ORTA members regarding a relative new group that promises to protect the pensions of the five public employee pension programs. First of all, he wants to assure members that ORTA is not affiliated with the organization called Protect Ohio's Pensions, nor does ORTA anticipate a partnership with this group. Robin states clearly that ORTA has been and will continue to be the voice for STRS pension beneficiary recipients.



Dan McCombs

ORTA's efforts have a history of insuring the stability of the STRS system and the current health care system for STRS retirees.

ORTA's focus is on protecting the pension system of ORTA members only. In service to you, the members, ORTA attends all STRS meetings, provides testimony, and continues to be a strong voice for thousands of STRS retirees. Of great importance is our commitment to keep the defined benefits system in place and fight against the defined contribution system proposed by many lawmakers here in Ohio and across the country.

The decision to join an additional organization that will duplicate what we do will be counterproductive. Robin urges all of us to work on expanding ORTA membership. If each ORTA member would convince just one new member each to join ORTA, our voice and strength would be doubled. Let us not divide the membership on this issue. Let us get behind our new Executive Director and GO ORTA.

MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot

We welcome new members Linda Roberts and MaryAnn Beman-Nething. They joined us at our September luncheon and were introduced to our members in attendance.
Linda has taught in several states during her career and retired under the California system.
MaryAnn retired from Warren City Schools in 2017. Both Linda and MaryAnn bring a new energy to our association.

Judy Hendershot

We will be setting up our PCRTA closed Face Book group site this month. If you have a working email address and use Facebook as well, we will be contacting you with an invitation to join our group. We will use our secure Facebook group site to disseminate information and to help all members to stay connected between meetings and activities.

Additionally, this site will be a way to advertise PCRTA and ORTA and hopefully encourage other retired teachers who are not members to join.
Your continued membership gives us a strong voice. Thank you.

PCRTA Executive Committee Meeting September 14, 2017

Members present: Georgia Darrah, Darlene Fetterhoff, Jim Montaquila, Carole Stokes, Denise Craig, Dave Gynn, Pat Gynn, Dan McCombs, Edith Scott, Kay Wise, Karen Balog, John Kerstetter, Connie Evans, Chris DeMarco

Vice President Georgia Darrah opened the 501c3 meeting. Kay Wise made a motion to accept the scholarship minutes, which was seconded by Denise Craig. The motion passed.

Treasurer Darlene Fetterhoff gave the Scholarship Treasury Report July 5 – September 5, 2017.

Scholarship

Checking Account Balance	$7,339.52	
Savings Account Balance	$15,663.38	
Stifel Balance	$59,144.79	Note: See the website for the full report.

Karen Balog made a motion to accept the scholarship treasury report. It was seconded by John Kerstetter. The motion carried.

Scholarship Chair Jim Montaquila asked the Executive Committee for ideas for the theme for next year's scholarship luncheon.

Dan McCombs made a motion to adjourn the 501c3 meeting. It was seconded by Connie Evans. The motion passed.

Vice President Georgia Darrah opened the 501c4 meeting. Kay Wise made a motion to accept the minutes, and Denise Craig seconded it. The motion passed.

Corresponding Secretary Denise Craig read a thank you note from Edie Scott.

Treasurer Dave Gynn gave the PCRTA Treasury Report July1 – August 31, 2017.

PCRTA

Checking Account Balance	$3,019.44	- Current PCRTA Checking	$3,690.44
Savings Account Balance	$906.17	- Current PCRTA Savings	$ 170.00
Stifel Balance	$34,370.23	- Current Stifel PCRT	$34, 370. 23

Note: See the website for the full report.

Georgia reported that Hope Short, STRS Member Education Specialist, will be our luncheon speaker. She also reminded us that our service project for September is small gifts for seniors, gift cards or cash.

Dave Gynn gave the ORTA report for Helena. He stated that Robin Rayfield is our new Executive Director, which is now a part-time position. ORTA is also doing away with trustees which will result in savings.

PCRTA Executive Committee Meeting September 14, 2017, continued

Legislative Chair Dan McCombs reported that ORTA's mission is to protect our pensions. He also said that Carol Kinsey will be back to work on legislation. Dan shared the email from ORTA regarding POP 5.

NEOMED`Proctor Scheduling Chair Edie Scott announced that there will be an orientation next week. She also said that Sue Hricko will be having a hip replacement.

Protective Services Chair Kay Wise reported that she and her husband Ralph attended ORTA's 70th anniversary. They received a "Goody Bag," watched a movie about the building of the canal, toured the village, and enjoyed a canal boat ride.

Reservations Chair Karen Balog reported that she has 36 reservations for the luncheon. After some discussion, Karen made a motion to accept into PCRTA only membership teachers who are not beneficiaries of STRS. Darlene Fetterhoff seconded it. The motion passed.

Social Chair John Kerstetter announced that the next event is the Kent State University Orchestra Concert on November 5 at 3:00PM in Cartwright Hall. The cost is $10, and the coordinator is Terry Schoettler, 316 Woodard Avenue, Kent, OH 44240 330-673-3099. Dinner follows at Bricco's Restaurant at 5p.m. 210 S. Depeyster St. Kent,

On November 8 there is a tour of Harry London Candy. There is no cost, but reservations are needed. Coordinators are Chris DeMarco 330-730-7204 and Phyllis Spangler 330-593-5253. Meet at University Plaza for carpools at 10:00 AM. Lunch follows at Samantha's at 4954 Portage St. NW, N. Canton, Oh 44720.

Sunday, December 17, 2017, Western Reserve Christmas Band Concert and Dinner at the First Congregational Church at 4:00 p.m. 47 Aurora St. Hudson, OH 44236. Dinner at Zeppe's Bistro & Pizzzaria 5843 Darrow Rd. Hudson. Contacts: Ken Grandville P.O. Box 2526 Streetsboro, OH 44241 330-626-2154 Kregville@yahoo.com or Kay Wise 5350 Rootstown Rd. Ravenna, OH 44266 330-297-1110 KayWise@aol.com

Webmaster Connie Evans reported that the cost for the web is over $600. The reasons for this are because she signed up for three years to get a better price, plus fees to cover domain protection and domain privacy. Our web has had 19,349 hits so far.

Kay Wise made a motion to adjourn the 501c4 meeting. It was seconded by Darlene Fetterhoff. The motion passed.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

Hope Short, STRS Member Educational Specialist, gave an informative program. One of the things she mentioned was that the Medicare reimbursement will be $29.90 for everyone in 2018. However, in 2019 it will be discontinued. Another important fact to be aware of is that the premium for spouses will increase considerably, so it would be a good idea to shop around.

RESERVATION FOR LUNCHEONS at The Kent American Legion Post 496 at 1945 Mogadore Rd. Kent, Ohio 44240 off Rt. 261. Park and enter at the rear of the building. **Doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

The Business Meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. with lunch following.

November Menu: Thanksgiving Feast – turkey, ham, mashed potatoes, candied carrots, cranberry salad, pumpkin or fruit pie,

Number of reservations for November14 _____Phone:_____

Names_____

December Menu: **Italian Feast**-vegetable lasagna, stuffed Italian meatloaf, chicken francaise, garlic mashed potatoes, green beans almandine, bread and butter, beverages and Italian rum cake.

Number of reservations for
December_____Phone:_____

Names_____

Enclosed at $15.00 per luncheon Nov._____

Enclosed at $15.00 per luncheon Dec._____

Enclosed extra for scholarship_____Mail your check payable to PCRTA by **NOVEMBER 6, 2017,** to Karen Balog at 516 E. Main St. Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Phone: 330-212-3145. Email: pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com. December due by Dec. 14, 2017, or send both Nov. and Dec. by Nov. 6, 2017.

IN MEMORY Helen Jane Wilson: Helen Jane died peacefully August 7, 2017, at her home in Washington State. After rearing her five sons, Helen taught and administrated in the Ravenna School System from 1967-1989. Then she became the Coordinator for 19 years of Adult Basic Education and Literacy Education at Maplewood Career Center in Ravenna. She also became the first Ex. Director of the Portage County Literacy Coalition. She received many accolades and awards for her personal and professional achievements, including induction into the Ravenna Ravens Hall of Fame in 2003.

She had high energy, high standards, a gift for leadership, uncomprising loyalty, and terrific memory. She created beautiful works of needlepoint and crochet art throughout her lifetime.

Dave Gynn
4210 Lancaster Ln.
Kent, OH 44240

Address Codes
S=State (ORTA)
P=Portage(PCRTA)
Life=Life Membership
Year=Dues paid through.
Example: S2017P2017=
state and local dues paid through 2017 and are now due for 2018

www.pcrta.net

Webmaster

Karen Balog

Connie Evans

2018 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 amount _____

Dave Gynn

Make check payable to PCRTA. Complete the form and mail both to:
Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240