

THE DESKTOP

*The Newsletter of Portage County Retired Teachers Association
Volume 26 Issue 1 February-March 2018*



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DR. ROBIN RAYFIELD TO SPEAK AT PCRTA LUNCH ON MARCH 15, 2018

Dr. Rayfield, the new Executive Director of ORTA, retired from the superintendent's position at Pike Delta York Local in 2012 after 31 years as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, university professor and superintendent, mostly in northwest Ohio. After retirement he worked at two universities, Findlay and Ohio University. Dr. Rayfield, who has been married to his wife, Stephanie, for 30 years, has three children: Ryan, Reid and Ross. He is a member of the Ohio Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. His topic will be: What Is Going On at ORTA (changes associated with the strategic plan), and he will also provide an update on STRS matters.



Dr. Robin Rayfield

LEGISLATIVE by Dan McCombs

Democrats, Republicans and Independents have reason to be concerned with what is happening to our country. Democratic principles and values are being challenged from all sides. Our institutions, such as the FBI, are under attack, and Congress itself has become extremely divided. Several states have court suits pending to see whether or not the state drawn districts have been gerrymandered. Ohio is among them. We only have a short time to address a comprehensive immigration plan in Congress. Why is it that we are so politically divided that we can't pass legislation that is overwhelmingly popular, with polls showing 85% of the country favoring passage? As an organization, we must remain non-political. We need to decide whether or not we can put what is right for our country ahead of our party affiliations. Please take the time to address your concerns about the action our country appears to be

heading with your representatives and senators. They need to hear from you.



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Carol Kinsey, District Director from ORTA, installed the three officers for PCRTA. The remaining officers have another year to serve on their two year term.

Carol Kinsey, ORTA; Dave Gynn, Treasurer; Carole Stokes, Secretary; Chris DeMarco, V.P.

PCRTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 9, 2017 by Carole Stokes

Darlene Fetterhoff gave the Scholarship Treasury Report September 5 – November 7, 2017

Checking Account Balance \$5,828.18

Savings Account Balance \$15,672.33

Stifel Balance \$60,745.85

Note: See website for the full report.

Darlene Fetterhoff made a motion to adjourn the 501c3 meeting, and Denise Craig seconded it. The motion passed.

President Helena Parry called the 501c4 meeting to order.

Kay Wise made a motion to accept the minutes, and Georgia Darrah seconded it. The motion passed.

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

Checking Account Balance \$3,535.45

Savings Account Balance \$906.17

Stifel Balance \$32,254.64 See our website for the full report.

Vice President Georgia Darrah reported that the guest for our November luncheon is Lynn Poulton, a certified professional organizer and owner of Wholly Organized! For our December Christmas program we will have a musical group called the “Tuba Fours.”

Helena Parry gave the ORTA Trustee Report from the meeting on October 27, 2017. Dr. Robin Rayfield, the new Executive Director, presented some of his major goals:

Goal 1: ORTA will work improving financial conditions for STRS recipients. **Goal 2:** ORTA will work towards the continuation of affordable and functional health care programs available to STRS beneficiaries. **Goal 3:** ORTA will work to increase membership across the state.

PCRTA NOVEMBER 9, 2017, MEETING CONTINUED

The year- long work of the ORTA Strategic Planning Committee, Co-Chaired by Dave Gynn and Bea Lehner, resulted in changes to the structure and governance of the organization. There will be five geographical regions in Ohio: N.E., N.W., Central, S.E. and S.W. Within each area there will be 3 liaisons, one of which will serve on the ORTA Executive Committee along with the ORTA officers. There will no longer be Trustees.

Nominations Co-Chair Jan Fencl presented the committee's nominations: Vice President: Chris DeMarco; Treasurer: David Gynn; Recording Secretary: Carole Stokes.

Community Services Chair Judy Morgan reminded us that the project for November is non-perishable foods for the Center of Hope. For December the project is children's hats, gloves, scarves or outer wear for the County Clothing Center. She also asked for suggestions for future projects.

Protective Services Chair Kay Wise reported on three possible venues for our luncheons next year. In addition, she announced that she requested 30 copies of the pamphlet "Signs of a Scam" from the Portage County Sheriff's office.

Public Relations Chair Georgia Darrah reported, "As always, Laura Nethken does a wonderful job of making sure the articles I email to her are published in the Record Courier. I always send her an announcement of our upcoming meetings and then a picture and article after each meeting."

Webmaster Connie Evans reported that she has been receiving messages stating that anything www. without the http: is not safe. After some discussion, it was agreed that she should take steps to secure the website. The cost for three years is \$95.00. Karen Balog moved to get a SSL Certificate to make the web safer. Darlene Fetterhoff seconded it.

Helena Parry adjourned the meeting.

PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2017

President Helena Parry welcomed everyone and thanked the greeters, Patty Miller and Phyllis Spangler.

Len Suzelis led us in singing "We Gather Together." Proctoring Chair Edith Scott announced that she needs more proctors for December. There is one period that 36 proctors are needed.

Membership Chair Judy Hendershot introduced two new members: Mary McCulley and Darlene Krieger.

Judy Morgan reminded us that the December project is children's hats, gloves or outerwear for the County Clothing Center.

Legislative Chair Dan McCombs said we should be worried about what is going on with the proposed new tax bill. Carol Kinsey from ORTA added that she is concerned about the elimination of the teacher deduction. Ken Granville reminded us that the Western Reserve Christmas Band Concert and Dinner at Zepppe's is December 17. Helena Parry recognized Georgia Darrah, the outgoing Vice-President, for her excellent work. Kelley Neal from AARP presented Dave Gynn with the AARP Award of Excellence in Uniting Generations. Saroj Sutaria offered the slate of officers and invited any other nominations. Judy Hendershot made a motion to approve the candidates. It was seconded by Len Suzelis. The motion carried. Carol Kinsey installed the new officers: Vice President Chris DeMarco, Treasurer David Gynn,

and Recording Secretary Carole Stokes. Joyce Naujoks won the 50/50. For the meditation Georgia Darrah read a humorous piece titled, "The Twelve Days of Thanksgiving." The speaker was Lynne Poulton, a Professional Organizer and owner of Wholly Organized! LLC. She shared lots of tips on how to make decisions and organize.

IN MEMORY : Mary E. Schillmiller, 98, of Brimfield, died Monday, November 20, 2017, at her home.

She was born September 16, 1919, in Elizabeth, IN., to Edward J. and Pearl (Hart) Schillmiller. Mary was a member of St. Patrick Church in Kent where, she sang in the choir; the National Education Association, Ohio Education Association and Euclid Teacher Association. Mary received her Bachelor's degree from Kent State University and taught Special Education in the Macedonia, Stow and Euclid Schools for 50 years. She was a Rosie the Riveter working on airplanes during WWII.

She is survived by brother, Larry (Peach) Schillmiller of Brimfield; sister, Audra Fogel of Caldwell; brother-in-law, Harold (Mary) Miller of Cuyahoga Falls; sister-in-law, Faye Schillmiller of Villa Park, IL; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother, Don Schillmiller; sister, Greta Miller; and brother-in-law, Al Fogel.

Join PCRTA at E J Thomas in Akron

Broadway in America: **THE JERSEY BOYS**

May 1, 2018 - 7:30 pm

Limited quantity - order now

Name _____

_____ Tickets x \$10 = _____ Make checks payable to PCRTA

Phone _____ Mail to Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240.



**DAVE GYNN RECEIVED AN AARP AWARD
(American Association of Retired Persons)**

Dave Gynn received the Excellence in Uniting Generations award from AARP. At the request of NEOMED, Dave started the proctoring with PCRTA members, who have given over 5,000 hours of service to NEOMED. Because PCRTA receives a stipend for proctoring, we have been able to award a scholarship each year to several area high school students interested in majoring in education, who are selected by our scholarship team.

Other donations to our scholarship fund are greatly appreciated as well.

Dave Gynn with Kelly Neal, Volunteer Engagement Specialist, AARP, Ohio

PLEASE CHECK OUR ONLINE SITE FOR

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Help is needed for elections in May and November.

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 form to Dave Gynn, 4210 Lancaster Lane, Kent OH 44240. Thanks.

PCRTA SOCIAL EVENTS for 2018 (Missing dates and prices will be added as they become available.)

“It Should Have Been You” and dinner following show: Sunday, April 8, 2018

Weathervane Theater
1301 Weathervane Lane
Akron, Ohio 44313
330-836-2626

Papa Joe’s
1561 Akron Peninsula Road
Akron, Ohio 44313
330-923-7999

Show at 2:30 p.m.

Dinner at 5:00 p.m.

****Reservations** with checks payable to “PCRTA” for \$ are **due by March 22, 2018.**

Contact Wendy Cooley at 330-325-1998 or Wen00711@aol.com

“Jersey Boys” Tuesday, May 1, 2018

EJ Thomas Hall 800-440-8539
198 Hill Street
Akron, Ohio 44325

Show at 7:30 p.m.

****Reservations** with checks payable to “PCRTA” for \$10.00 are **due by April 1, 2018.**

Contact Phyllis Spangler at 330-593-5253 or steve.and.phyl17@hotmail.com

“Oklahoma!” Wednesday, August 2, 2018, and dinner PRIOR to show at 5:00 p.m.

Porthouse Theatre
3143 O’Neil Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
(on Blossom Music Center grounds)
330-672-3884

Sarah’s Vineyard
1204 W. Steels Corners Road
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
(across road from theatre entrance)
330-929-8057

****Reservations** with checks payable to “PCRTA” for \$ are **due by June 1, 2018**

Contact John and Sandy Kerstetter at 330-673-0129 or jkerstet@kent.edu

First Ladies Museum October (?) 2018, with lunch at Samantha’s Restaurant

First Ladies Museum
205 Market Avenue South
Canton, Ohio 44702
330 452-0876

Samantha’s Restaurant
4954 Portage Street NW
N. Canton, Ohio 44720
330 499-9700

Reservations made out to “PCRTA” due by (Information to come as it becomes available.)

Contact Wendy Cooley at 330-325-1998 or Wen00711@aol.com

Western Reserve Christmas Band Concert Sunday, December 16, 2018, and dinner following at

Zeppe’s

First Congregational Church (4-5:30) p.m.
47 Aurora Street
Hudson, Ohio
330-650-4048

Zeppe’s Bistro & Pizzeria
5843 Darrow Road
Hudson, Ohio 44236
330-655-9600

**** Reservations:** No cost for concert; dinner reservations due by December 15, 2018.

Contact Ken Granville P.O. Box 2526 Streetsboro, Ohio 44241 330-626-2154

Kregville@gmail.com

Other Western Reserve Band Concerts you may be interested in attending on your own: jSpring

Concert: Saturday April 21, 2018, at Hudson Middle School 7:30-9:00 p.m.; Ice Cream Social: Friday,

June 15, 2018, at Hudson on the Green, 7:00 p.m.; Outdoor Concert: Sunday, August 19, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 15, 2018, LUNCHEON FORM:

RESERVATION FOR PCRTA LUNCHEON at The Kent American Legion Post 496 ,
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.



The menu for March is chicken francaise, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, bread, butter, assorted pie, lemonade, water, coffee and tea.

Number of reservations _____ Phone: _____

Names _____

Enclosed at \$15.00 per luncheon for March _____

Enclosed extra for scholarship _____ Mail your check payable to
PCRTA by **March 5, 2018**, to Karen Balog at 516 E. Main St., Ravenna, Ohio 44266. Phone:
330-212-3145. Email: pcrta.luncheon@gmail.com.

Community Service Project for March: The Clothing Center wants foam cups, plates and soup bowls,
paper towels, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, copy paper 8"x11.5", pot holders, bathroom
cleaning products, Dawn dish soap for sink washing and other kitchen cleaning products. **PLEASE BRING**
THESE ITEMS TO THE MARCH 15, 2018, MEETING

MEMBERSHIP by Judy Hendershot

In its 2018 Action Plan to retain a strong voice for thousands of STRS beneficiaries, ORTA has set forth a goal to increase membership across the state. The state leadership is committed to improving communication by informing members on matters of importance. Your memberships in PCRTA and ORTA keep us viable. Informing non- members about ORTA's efforts on behalf of all STRS recipients might serve as an encouragement for them to join our endeavor. Thank you.

We welcome our newest members Darlene Creager who retired from Ravenna City Schools, Barbara Keller who taught in the James A. Garfield school system, Kim Gallagher and Mary McCauley.

We will hold a remembrance at our March 15th luncheon meeting in honor of our members who passed away during the last year: Tom Campana, Winona Jean Thomas, Paul Kitchin, Helen Jane Wilson, Mary Schillmiller, and Christine Luli. Family members who can be contacted will be invited to join us. Please consider joining us for this important occasion.

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



Karen Balog

www.pcrta.net

Webmaster



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