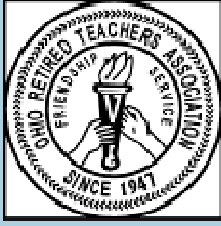


The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County
Retired Teachers Association



A Chapter of Ohio Retired
Teachers Association

Desktop Volume 22 - Issue 3

June - July, 2013

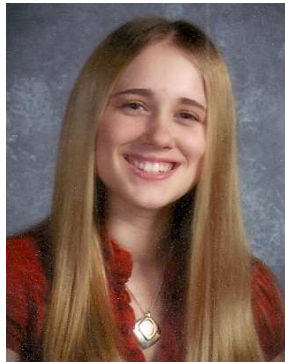
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PRESENTING...OUR 2013 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The future of our classrooms is secure. PCRTA will award future teacher scholarships to six high school graduates at our July 18 luncheon. Sixteen students from eight school districts applied for the scholarship this year. The applications for the \$1,000 awards were exceptional. With outstanding grades and test scores, enthusiastic teacher recommendations, and their amazing leadership and service activities, these students are the best of the best. Plan to attend the luncheon and be prepared to be impressed.

Alexa Brewster, a four-year varsity volleyball letter winner at Streetsboro High School, plans to attend Kent State University to study athletic training and physical education. She has been active in student council, National Honor Society, Rocket Rowdies and Leadership Committee. Her English teacher and senior class advisor says, "She is highly motivated and sets a great example for the entire student body." Commenting on her numerous activities, her U. S. Government teachers noted, "She has succeeded brilliantly in balancing the delicate dilemma that is time management."



Field High School valedictorian, **Samantha Cooper**, values the relationships she has developed with her teachers as the driving force to select a career in education. Her experiences on church mission trips, working with children as a Junior Achievement instructor, and working on community service projects have urged her to become a teacher. Her teachers have noticed, "She is always in a good mood and has a great sense of humor," and "She is a leader among her classmates."

Sarah McClure has had numerous experiences working with young children through church events, camp, mission trips, and babysitting. She will graduate from Kent Roosevelt High School and has been chosen for Bowling Green State University's prestigious President's Leadership Academy. Her career path will be either elementary education or Spanish education. One of her teachers says, "Her personality is engaging. She knows the meaning of teamwork. Her persistent work ethic enables her to find success and balance her goals in extra-curricular involvement and academics."



MORE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Because music has always had a positive impact on the life of **Melody Smith**, she plans to share her love of music through teaching. She has participated in choir, drama and band at Field High School and has been involved in music organizations in the community. She will study both vocal and instrumental music at Kent State University where she has been a post-secondary option student. Her pastor says, “She displays a roundedness of person that continually surprises.” One interesting surprise is that she is a professional magician.

Ashley Spangler, valedictorian at Waterloo High School, will study art education at Kent State University. Her passion for all things painted, drawn, sculpted, designed, and otherwise created has piqued her interest in teaching. Her math teacher believes that “Ashley possesses both the knowledge and the communication skills to make an excellent teacher.” Her school experiences include art club, drama club, pep club, poetry club and active involvement many church and community organizations.



As a cheerleader and class president for four years at Streetsboro High School, **Kayla Tuma** is positive, enthusiastic and spirited. Her class advisor calls her “intelligent, motivated, independent, honest and dependable.” With a near perfect GPA, she finds time to participate in many school activities and also volunteers extensively in community organizations. She plans to attend Kent State University to earn a degree in early childhood education and hopes to teach in Portage County.

HOW THE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE CHOSEN

Are you curious about how the recipients are chosen? This year we had 16 applicants from 8 schools: Crestwood—2; Field—3; Kent Roosevelt—2; Ravenna—1; Rootstown—2; Southeast—1; Streetsboro—4; and Waterloo—1.



Jim Montaquila is the chair of the Scholarship Committee and he works very hard to see that all the Portage County Schools are contacted about the scholarships. Information is sent to the guidance counselors, with reminders sent to them before the deadline.

Once the applications come in, Jim sends a packet of each student’s information to each of the people on his committee: **Dave Gynn, Norm Park, Jan FencI, Kay Wise** and **Lowell Myers** and they go through each one individually, ranking the students according to a rubric. Next the committee meets, they total the scores and determine the top six students. Jim then contacts all applicants and provides information and pictures for the newsletter. He contacts the families and makes arrangements for them to attend the luncheon.

Jim says he wants to thank **Edith Scott** and all the NEOMED proctors who earn the money to present these scholarships. Some scholarships also come from donations as well as bequeaths from past members’ families.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – KEEP ROLLING ALONG

Kathy Baker, a writer, a motivational speaker, wife and mom, recently had an article published in the Record Courier about taking lessons from the river. She put the river into personification mode and then compared our lives to the old river. She advised us to keep rolling along in spite of trouble, turmoil, peace, calm, raging, or whatever our predicament.



I think this is clever advice since we seem to be having more and more turmoil from both some citizens and Mother Nature as well. What can we do as members of the Portage County Teacher's Association? What can we do as citizens of the United States of America? What can we do in Ohio, or in Portage County, or in our city of residence, or in our own homes?

Well, we as a group must keep ever vigilant of the changing work in Congress. Now it seems just after we got the word that the public pension plan was safe for a few years, we now received word that there is a new bill being introduced at the federal level which could once again make changes to the public pension system.

Our Legislative Chair, **Dan McCombs**, can explain this bill in more detail; however, we must think about the advice of **Kathy Baker** and keep rolling along in spite of turmoil and danger. We must do what we can to let our elected officials know how hard we have worked to keep our pension system intact and how much it could cost the government if they want to support us instead of us being taken care of by our own pension system.

For example, in my case, if I were to lose my STRS pension, then the government would need to switch to paying to me social security benefits to which I qualify through my former husband, or switch to paying me my own full social security benefits which are now also off-set by my STRS pension.

I'm thinking that perhaps there are many other folks in a similar situation to mine concerning pensions. We need to remind the government that because we are pensioned enough, we can volunteer in many situations and even donate to some causes, which would cost the government even more without donations provided by citizens. So, Kathy thank you for the advice. We shall keep rolling along.

Helena



Helena Parry
PCRTA
President

ONE STEP FORWARD—TWO STEPS BACK: AVOID FEDERAL INTERVENTION

Here I was hoping for a relaxed summer after three long years of fighting the STRS Pension battles. **Dave Gynn** sent me information regarding the Public Employees Pension Transparency Act (known as PEPTA). **Devin Nunes**, a Republican Representative of California and others introduced this legislation on April 18, 2013.



Currently state pension systems have rigorous regulations and accounting standards in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. PEPTA creates a worrisome precedent regarding Federal regulation of state and local governments and taxation of their bonds. It does this by mandating a costly and complex layer of Federal reporting on top of what is already required.

The legislation also requires state and locals to report as though they are invested only in U.S. Treasuries, not the diversified portfolios actually in use. This will create a

false picture of the true condition of public pension plans and mislead taxpayers, frighten investors, and confuse policymakers. Also, PEPTA does not lower taxpayer costs as suggested, nor does it increase transparency and understanding of pension systems.

Ohio has made positive changes in our pension system over the past few years. We don't need Federal intervention. It has also come to my attention recently that the Congress is revisiting the takeover of our retirement systems and potentially placing them under Social Security.

Please join me in letting our Representatives and Senators know that we are totally opposed to these two measures. I guess we will never be able to relax our vigilance when it comes to watching our leaders in our nation's Capitol.



Dan McCombs,
PCRTA
Legislative
Chair

I will keep you posted regarding any changes in the two above-mentioned pieces of legislation.

Dan



TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for May 8, 2013 to May 31, 2013:

Beginning Checking Acct. Balance:	\$ 13,701.38
Income:	\$ 3,905.00
Dues, luncheon, donations, NEOMED	
Expenses:	\$ 1,780.00
ORTA Dues	780.00
Scholarship McClure	1,000.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 15,826.38
Scholarship Funds in Checking	\$ 9,711.50
Checking Working Balance	\$ 6,114.88

DUES REMINDER:

About half of the members who were notified by reminder postcards paid their 2013 dues recently. Thank you for your quick response. Please check your newsletter address label to note updates. If you still owe for 2013, please submit as soon as possible.

Don't hesitate to call me at
330-673-8164
if you have any questions.

Darlene



In Memoriam:

We sadly note the passing of **Ruth White** on May 25, 2013. She retired from Kent City Schools after many years of teaching at Central Elementary. Ruth was a member of PCRTA and ORTA since 1998. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

KNOW YOUR MEDICATIONS

What to ask. If your doctor has prescribed a new medication, make sure you understand how to use it. Here are ten things to know:

1. What are the brand and generic names of the medication? (For possible cost savings, ask if you can use the generic.)
2. When should you take the prescribed medication and how often?
3. Should you take your medication with or without food?
4. Are there any known interactions?
5. If you forget to take a dose or take too much by mistake, what should you do?



6. What are the possible side effects?
7. When should you start feeling better?
8. When should you stop taking your medication?
9. How should the medication be stored?
10. Where can you find more information about the medication?

For more information on medications, go to <https://www.aarpmedicareplans.com/aaroptum/family-guide-to-medicine-safety>

Kay Wise, Chair of the Informative & Protective Services Committee



Kay

NEOMED and PCRTA members have had a wonderful working relationship over the past 6-7 years. NEOMED needed proctors for the medical students' tests, and PCRTA was looking for a way to earn money for our annual future teacher scholarships. It was a perfect match.

NEOMED's **Suzanne Hricko** and PCRTA'S **Edith Scott** have worked together seamlessly. **Suzanne** gives **Edith** the schedule of tests, and **Edith** calls to match proctors to the schedule. NEOMED has given money to our scholarship fund commensurate with the number of hours proctored. Starting out with 500 hours for the first two years, then growing to 750 hours with the addition of the School of Pharmacy, and now up to 900 hours as the University has grown. In general, proctoring funds six \$1000 scholarships each year.

On May 16, NEOMED held it's *First Annual Proctor Appreciation Reception*. Many of the 40+ proctors attended the reception. **Stephanie Lammlein**, Director of the BIO-MED Academy gave an enthusiastic presentation and answered the many questions the proctors had for her. What a wonderful opportunity for students interested in the medical field to be able to use the boundless, diverse resources available to them at NEOMED.

Light refreshments were served and the proctors received blue bags with the logo of the new mascot for NEOMED—"Nate, the Walking Whale," who was just introduced on May 8, 2013. **Mary Evelyn Shabino** and **Kay Wise** had their names drawn and received gas cards as a thank you.

Suzanne Hricko, the Chief Proctor and Curriculum Specialist at NEOMED, echoed the thoughts of the NEOMED staff about our proctors when she said, "We couldn't do it without you." And PCRTA and our scholarship program could say the same about NEOMED.



Pictured above: Two NEOMED staff members and some of the PCRTA Proctors who attended the Proctor Appreciation Reception held recently at NEOMED. Left: **Suzanne Hricko** (Chief Proctor/Curriculum Specialist of NEOMED); **Richard Kasmer** (NEOMED Associate Dean); **Edith Scott** (PCRTA Proctor Coordinator); **Stephanie Lammlein** (Guest Speaker and Director of NEOMED Bio-Med Academy); and **Sergio Garcia** (Chief of Staff, Office of the President at NEOMED).



You, too, could join the ranks of these proctors, help work with the next generation of doctors and pharmacists and help earn money for PCRTA's Scholarship Fund. You do not need to be a teacher in order to proctor, BUT you do need to attend an orientation and training session before you start proctoring.

The next session will be **August 14 at 10:00 am at NEOMED**. Call **Edith Scott** at 330-297-1812 for more information or to sign up for the orientation session. See page 7 for some proctor comments on why they volunteer.

GED GRADUATION – JUNE 6, 2013



For a number of years, PCRTA has been helping at the GED Graduation Ceremony at Maplewood by bringing cookies and serving cake and punch provided by the GED Department. This service provides the GED and ABLÉ staff time to spend with the new graduates and their families.

This year **Pat Gynn, Kathy Latimer, Georgia Darrah, and Judy Morgan** (chair of the Community Services Committee) served at the refreshment table. Why not join us next year?

It is always a wonderful evening to see the graduates and their proud families. We tell the students that we represent their former teachers who would have been so proud to know that they had finally made this wonderful achievement.

PCRTA

PCRTA OFFICERS

- President: Helena Parry
- 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: Dave Gynn
- 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!



HEY, WHO ASKED YOU?



Dave Gynn,
Membership Chair

Your membership in ORTA, the professional retired teachers' organization, is now more important than ever before. But some retirees don't "get" the significance of uniting to protect and improve our pensions and health care benefits.



- So—who asked you to join?
- Who invited you to attend a luncheon meeting?
- Who urged you to participate in a PCRTA project?

Many members remember that it was a personal contact from a member or friend that encouraged them to join.

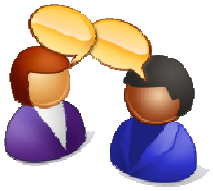
This year we expect a large number of retirees (perhaps due to the recent pension legislation). As usual, PCRTA will send or deliver an invitation letter, a membership brochure and ticket for a free lunch to each retiree.

The rest is up to YOU—to contact retirees and urge them to join us.

Some retirees decided to take a year or two off before joining any organization. Now is the time to again contact those retirees from the last few years who have not yet joined, and remind them that their future benefits depend upon the strength of our organization. Why don't you share Dan McCombs' legislative news with them (see page 3).

Remember who asked you.

Be the person that other members will remember because you asked them to join. We need you and you need us!



Dave



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Elaine Lumley retired from Akron Public Schools in 2006.

Kathy Wilen retired from Kent City Schools in 2001.

PROCTOR QUOTES: WHY DO YOU PROCTOR? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

Adele Fussner: I really enjoy proctoring. I am a busy person, but this is one thing that I wouldn't want to give it up. I enjoy being around the students, and I feel they respect us.

Barb Geisey: I really enjoy being with students again—having a chance to see and work with them one on one. I'm impressed with the program that's available at NEOMED, and I'm glad to have a chance to help.

Bill Conroy: First, I thought it would be something my wife and I could do together. I'm not a teacher, but that didn't seem to be a problem. It's a service to the community as well as to the PCRTA scholarship fund. I find it enjoyable to be around these bright young people.

Millie Keller: One, it helps NEOMED, and it helps give us money for PCRTA scholarships. And also, I just like being around the young people there.

Dick Brockett: I started 5-6 years ago, prompted because of the scholarships; but, I stayed because it is interesting to see the next generation of doctors in their embryo state. It has also been interesting to see all the changes in the NEOMED program.

Rosemary Hostler: I want to say my main reason is because of the scholarship fund. Second, I used to teach and this is another kind of teaching. I find the students are very courteous and friendly. Of course, they are nervous, but they seem to appreciate our being there, and they usually say 'Thank you.'

Saroj Sutaria: I like seeing the young people so intense about their career goals in the pharmacy or the medical programs. I like being useful, and I feel like I'm needed there.



MEETING MINUTES - Ruth Weigand, Secretary



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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - May 9, 2013

--President **Helena Parry** presided. Fifteen members were present.

--Corrected minutes from Recording Secretary **Ruth Weigand** were approved.

--Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs** wrote to former scholarship winners to see updates on their status.

--Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported a treasury balance of \$13,701.38 (Scholarship \$4,407.50 / Working checking \$4,893.88). Income and expense details are available from Darlene. The Stifel Nicolaus investment account balance is \$44,881.44 (life memberships 54.28% and Scholarship 45.72%).

--The 2012 audit and federal tax forms were filed by **Alan Balog**. The status of our 501(c)3 application is still pending.

--Post cards were mailed to members who still have not paid 2013 dues which must be sent to ORTA before July 1. PCRTA had to absorb the \$1 per person luncheon cost because the increase in price was not known. A decision was made to use the 50/50 drawing for operating funds.

--Vice President **Georgia Darrah** announced that Randy Overbeck, author of *Leave No Child Behind*, will be our speaker. She reminded proctors of the reception at 10:00.

--**Ron Snowberger**, ORTA Trustee, told of the recent ORTA board meeting where reports from districts and chapters were presented. He read our chapter report which summarized our activities. Read the entire report on our website. He serves on the ORTA legislative, public relations, and vision/goals committees.

--ORTA has a power point presentation to be used with preretirement workshops. Ron requested the slides and related commentary. We received a request from Florida for a copy of the skit performed at our December luncheon.

--**Helena Parry** and **Dave Gynn** attended the April 19 ORTA meeting for presidents, vice presidents, and membership chairs. ORTA's goal is increased membership.

--**Judy Morgan** reminded members about the community service project to bring items for the animal shelter to the luncheon. She also announced that we will provide refreshments for the GED graduation at Maplewood Career Center on June 6.

--Members have reported 1,700 volunteer hours from January through April. When it was suggested to honor members with volunteer hours, Judy said that most do not want recognition. School supplies will be collected in July and materials and/or money donation for the giving dolls in September.

--**Dave Gynn** said the membership committee will deliver membership packets to retirees. One new retiree will receive a free ORTA/PCRTA membership.

--**Pat Mazzer** had eye surgery; **Dee Smith** will send her a card. Other cards have been sent to ill members.

Edith Scott, Proctoring Coordinator, said there are 45 proctors who have been invited to a reception at 10:00 on May 16 in Meschel Hall.

--Newsletter Editor **Pat Gynn** said 328 newsletters were printed. 318 were mailed and 85 were emailed to members. The cost of printing and mailing was \$402.38.

--Nominations Chair **Jan Fencel** said the offices of Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected and installed at the annual meeting in November.

--**Richard** and **Maryann Brockett** reported that the preretirement workshop for active teachers will be in April 2014. There will be presentations from STRS and also ORTA/PCRTA. Financial planning was suggested for a separate meeting.

--**Kay Wise** has scheduled blood pressure checks on July 18 before the luncheon meeting.



--**Georgia Darrah** said the notice for the May luncheon meeting and the article about the KSU Fashion Museum appeared in the *Record Courier*.

--**Jim Montaquila** said the Scholarship Committee (**Dave Gynn, Jan Fencel, Norm Park, Kay Wise, Lowell Myers** and **Jim Montaquila**) met on April 15 to review the applications. Although rubrics were used to rate and make a composite for selections, it was difficult to make a choice. The committee selected **Sarah McClure**, Kent Roosevelt; **Kayla Tuma** and **Alexia Brewster**, Streetsboro; **Ashley Spangler**, Waterloo; and **Melody Smith** and **Samantha Cooper**, Field.

--Letters were sent to scholarship recipients, guidance counselors, and other applicants. The committee will discuss changes and present recommendations to the by-laws committee.

--President **Parry** appointed **Saroj Sutaria** (chair), **Jan FencI**, **Ron Snowberger**, **Pat Gynn**, and **Jim Montaquila** to the by-laws committee.

--**John** and **Sandy Kerstetter** said there were 45 responses from members to the survey for social activities which included theater, music, Paskey tours, and museums. Activities should be scheduled shortly after luncheon meetings to promote participation.

--Webmaster **Connie Evans** posted the purposes of PCRTA on the web site. They are to explore subjects of interest to retirees, to inform members of changes coming to health care and retirement benefits, to serve the community in many ways, and to provide scholarships to deserving students.

--There was a discussion of ways to earn monies for our general fund. One idea was to pay for scholarship-related expenses from the scholarship funds. Scholarship funds have been used to pay for guests at the scholarship luncheons in the past. It was decided that the \$850 fee for filing the 501(c)3 would also be paid from the scholarship fund.

--Since **Sarah McClure** cannot attend the July luncheon, it was suggested to invite her and her parents to the May luncheon, rather than present the scholarship to her at her school.

Kay Wise made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Jan FencI**. Motion carried.

PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING - May 16, 2013

--President **Helena Parry** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

--**Dave Gynn** led the pledge of allegiance.

--**Helena** welcomed scholarship recipient, **Sarah McClure**, and her parents.

--She also welcomed **Elaine Lumley** and **Kathy Wilen** who became new PCRTA/ORTA members today. They were invited to lunch by **Kathy Lilley** and **Kathy Latimer**, who had their names put in a drawing for bringing a future member. **Kathy Lilley** won a gift certificate to **Laziza's** in the drawing.

--President **Helena** announced that the Executive Board decided that 50/50 drawing will go to the general fund rather than the scholarship fund. **Dan McCombs** said the 50/50 drawing had \$116 with \$58 won by **Ruth Weigand**, part of which was donated to the animal shelter and for the purchase of Leave No Child Behind.

--**John Kerstetter** from the social committee said that the social activity survey showed a high interest in theater productions, musical events, and Paskey tours. He said 20 were signed up for the Harry London factory tour.

--**Dave Gynn**, membership committee chair, asked members to look at the chart on the table to see if they know anyone on the list of potential members and pick up a membership brochure to take to them.

--**Judy Morgan**, community service chair, said there is a chart going around for members to write down their number of volunteer hours. She said June 6th is the GED graduation at Maplewood Career Center. She would like members to sign up to help and/or bake cookies.

--**Edith Scott**, Proctor Coordinator, said that she is very proud of our team of proctors. We started with 19 proctors in 2007 with 57 tests and 435 hours. For 2011-2012, there were 114 tests with 869 ½ hours.

--**Edith** said the proctors attended a Proctor Thank You Appreciation Reception by NEOMED this morning. The NEOMED vice-president thanked the proctors.

--Everyone gave **Edith** a hand for her work with the scheduling and reminder-calling of the proctors. There will be an orientation in August for anyone who thinks they would like to proctor tests.

--**Edith** said that proctors have covered all the tests except two in the last two years. The NEOMED staff did the proctoring today so PCRTA members could attend today's luncheon.



--President **Helena** thanked **Marleen Strebler** for doing the reservations and **Darlene Fetterhoff** for handling the money. She thanked **Georgia Darrah** for the program and the decorations and **Kay Wise** and **Connie Evans** for being greeters.

--**Barb Geisey** gave a short meditation from Baha'i writings accompanied by musical whistling before and after the meditation by **James Geisey**.

--Scholarship Committee Chairman, **Jim Montaquila**, introduced scholarship recipient, **Sarah McClure** and presented her certificate and check for \$1000. **Sarah** spoke about how she always wanted to be a teacher. She plans to study Early Childhood Education at Bowling Green State University.

--**Dave Gynn** introduced **Randy Overbeck**, author of *Leave No Child Behind*, a book about teachers as heroes when their students were threatened by a persons who threatened to commit an act of terror at their school.

--He said there is a need to change the image of heroes in America. Heroes should be people who share care and concern and believes in the worth of every individual, and one who works without fanfare or flash. Members could purchase autographed books at a reduced price.



LOOKING BACK AT LIT CLASS AND HOW IT HAS CHANGED

I went to the basement recently to decide which old books to keep and which ones to ditch. One book in its faded green color caught my eye and immediately brought back some old memories. It was a lit book (published 1947) that I had used in my English classes. It was rather drab by today's standards--hand-drawn illustrations, no photos, no color. In looking over the stories, it struck me that very few of them could be used in a modern day text.



For instance: The "Old Man and Jim" by James Whitcomb Riley. An old man takes young Jim under his wing when the boy twice returned home with wounds suffered for the Union cause. Each time, the old man cared for him and got him back into the ranks. It is a touching story, but today it could be misconstrued. An old man and a boy?



It certainly (snicker, snicker) gives off unsavory vibes. No, Mr. Riley, we can't use your story.

Another story which probably wouldn't make it into a modern text was about a rancher whose cattle were being killed by a grizzly. He had several faithful hounds who were good trackers but certainly no match against a huge bear! So there was quite some excitement when the rancher added (at a huge expense) a fierce bulldog to the pack. If and when the grizzly was trapped, the Terrible Turk would be a great asset in closing out this chapter.



In time the bear was trapped and the hounds rushed in. So did Turk--not to go after the bear, but to attack the lead hound whose position in the pack had caused intense jealousy in the bulldog. After mauling the hound near to death, the rancher separated Turk from the fray, lead him over a rise, and a gunshot was heard. A good yarn but a little raw for today's younger teens. Killing bears and dogs just won't do.

Another story from the same text, which might not make the grade today, is Jack London's "To Build a Fire." An old dude in the Yukon decides to go out and check on trees for a possible lumber harvest come summer. It's around seventy below zero. He gets along fine until he steps into one of those strange never-freezing springs which hides under the crust. He is wet to the knees and his leather boots instantly turn to steel sheeting. He panics and runs briefly on lifeless stumps, slumps into a soft blanket of snow and dies. The man showed poor judgment in venturing out at that temperature and as a result paid the price. Death by freezing might be a little tough on today's eighth graders. Sorry, Mr. London.



So we live in an ever-changing world. What was acceptable yesterday is frowned upon today, and vice versa. And nowhere would that be more starkly apparent than comparing today's classrooms with those of sixty-plus years ago. I'm not positive; it's just a suspicion.

Norm Park



SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION IN JULY!

We have usually had our collection of school supplies at the September meeting, but have decided to move it to July so the materials will be ready to give to children for the start of the school year.

Please shop the school sales and bring in school supplies for the County Clothing Center to give out to needy Portage County children.



Know of anyone who needs a card for illness, sympathy, or congratulations??

Call or email our Sunshine Chair, Pat Mazzer, and she will send that person a card from PCRTA.



330-673-3174 or patmazzer@aol.com

Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, July 18, 2013

12 noon



RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED
4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



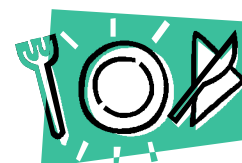
Buffet Menu: Sliced Ham, BBQ Chicken Breast, Roasted Redskins, Green Beans, House Salad, Fresh Fruit Compote, Rolls/Butter, Coffee/Tea, and Fruit Pie or Chocolate Cake. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the day is available to replace the ham/chicken.

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

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$13 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 needing a Vegetarian Entrée.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY July 12. 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: School Supplies for the County Clothing Center



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

July 11—Executive Board Meeting

July 18—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting
 Program: Scholarship Recipients;
 Collect School Supplies;
 Blood Pressures Taken

August 1—Newsletter Deadline

August 14 – NEOMED Proctor Training, 10 am

September 12—Executive Board Meeting

September 19—Luncheon Meeting/NEOMED:
 Program: Jan Householder,
 “Giving Dolls” program for dolls for
 hospitals;
 Collection of items for making dolls
 (yarn, material, thread, etc.)

October 1—Newsletter Deadline

November 14—Executive Board Meeting

November 21—Luncheon Meeting/ NEOMED
 Program: Ron Snowberger, “My
 Educational Trip to China”
 Officer Election/Installation;
 Collection of food and \$ for turkeys

December 19—Luncheon Meeting—
 (Note the date correction)
 Program: Christmas Party; Vocalist
 Sara Burky with flute and piano
 accompaniment by
 Michelle & Richard
 Worthing; Collection
 of hats, scarves,
 mittens for County
 Clothing Center.



The Executive Board meetings are held at the Kent Public Library on the second Thursday morning at 9:30, one week before each luncheon meeting.

The PCRTA luncheon meetings are held on the third Thursday at noon at NEOMED (Northeast Ohio Medical University) in the Ralph Regula Conference Center, 4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272, across the street from Rootstown High School. Turn in by Key Bank, skip the first visitor lot to park closer to the Conference Center. Drive in through the orange cones.



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 (ORTA) P=Portage (PCRTA)

Life memberships are indicated by (life) and annual memberships are indicated by (ann),

Example: S(life) P(ann) means that local dues are paid through 2012 and would be due at this time for 2013.

Email us at: 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.)

Gift Membership from _____

E-mail Address _____

2013 DUES PAYMENT

PCRTA & ORTA ANNUAL DUES:

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

PCRTA Life Membership \$150 _____

ORTA Life Membership \$500 _____

Scholarship Fund Donation _____

TOTAL _____

Make one check payable to **PCRTA**.

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



Mail completed form and check to:

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