

# The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County  
Retired Teachers Association



A Chapter of Ohio Retired  
Teachers Association

Desktop Volume 23 - Issue 4

Aug - Sept, 2013

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## "GIVING DOLLS" FIND THEIR WAY TO CHILDREN WHO NEED SOMETHING TO HUG

PCRTA members.....this a program you will not want to miss! The creator and founder of the non-profit "Giving Dolls", Jan Householder, will be the guest speaker at our next PCRTA luncheon meeting at noon on Thursday, September 19, in the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED in Rootstown.

In 2006, Jan decided to make a wide-eyed happy doll as an act of kindness for the daughter of a close friend. The little girl was headed to *St. Jude's Children's Hospital* to undergo treatment as part of a research program. Little did Jan know that this was the beginning of a wonderful program that would eventually touch the lives of children throughout the United States and internationally in 45 countries. You will be amazed at some of the stories Jan will be sharing with us.

Recently, PCRTA members **Judy Morgan** and **Georgia Darrah** made a visit to the "Giving Dolls" Headquarters in Wadsworth and came back quite excited about all they had seen and heard during their visit. This is a program that is guaranteed to touch your heart.



Judy Morgan and Jan Householder show a finished Giving Doll, while volunteers work in the shop.

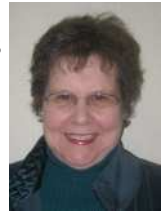
The Giving Doll Shop  
229 College Street  
Wadsworth, OH  
Tues and Thurs 10am-2pm  
[jan@thegivingdoll.com](mailto:jan@thegivingdoll.com)



Welcome to Retirement  
Retired Educators—  
Class of 2013 !!

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – HOW WOULD YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

On behalf of the PCRTA, I would sincerely like to thank our Scholarship Committee of **Kay Wise, Lowell Myers, Jan FencI, Dave Gynn, Norm Park** and committee chair, **Jim Montaquila**. The students selected seemed sincere, intelligent, well spoken, and well educated. The process for selection is a planned and methodical method, which consumes many hours of the committee's time.



Helena Parry  
PCRTA  
President

Then, how encouraged and delighted I was to meet the scholarship winners at our last two PCRTA luncheons. During the July luncheon meeting, everyone seemed to enjoy the recipients' answers to several questions asked of them during a panel format. The answers to many of these questions are found in the minutes of the July meeting written by **Ruth Weigand**. (Look on [www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net).)

I thought that you might be interested in hearing some of our own membership respond to the same questions asked of the scholarship recipients. Here are their answers:

### Why did you choose the school you did?

**Georgia Darrah:** I chose Kent State University for both my undergraduate and graduate work because they had an outstanding reputation for training teachers; and I wanted the experience of living on campus, but not be hours away from home.

**Ruth Weigand:** I chose KSU because I received a four-year tuition scholarship which I gave up to attend the cadet program, a two-year and two-summer training program at KSU which enabled me to begin teaching while finishing my degree.

**Helena Parry:** I, too, believed that KSU had a great teacher training program in the 60's, and I received a \$360 scholarship from the Junior Chamber of Commerce which paid for six quarters of tuition.

**Jim Montaquila:** I attended Ashland College (now Ashland University) for my B.S. degree because it was a small school and they provided the personal care I needed at that time. I received my M.S. degree and further advanced education from the University of Akron. It had the programs I needed and wanted and was convenient to me.



### What was your most memorable high school experience?

**Georgia:** It was being a part of the Alliance High School Marching Band. We worked very hard under our leader's direction, and we knew that hard work paid off.

**Ruth:** My most memorable experience was being chosen to go to Ohio Girls' State.

**Helena:** I had two things that were really hard to choose between: getting the Womanhood Award as a senior and being Miss Portage County Queen in 1961.

**Jim:** At my high school graduation, I received the School Spirit Award. It was one of the two highest awards presented to graduating seniors, and I had worked for it during my entire high school career.



### Which teacher had the greatest positive influence on you?

**Georgia:** My band director taught us to set high goals and then work to achieve them. He instilled a work ethic in them and allowed us to see what we could accomplish with hard work and dedication.

**Ruth:** My ninth grade Latin and English teacher had a huge influence on me because she convinced my mother that I needed eyeglasses.

**Helena:** My most influential teacher was my first grade teacher who allowed me to tutor others and to help a needy student to get organized.

**Jim:** **Ray Brannon** was my high school football coach. He always spoke of giving that "second effort." In one word, that meant persistence.



### Why did you choose to go into education?

**Georgia, Ruth, and Helena:** All three women said they knew they wanted to be a teacher from when they were very young. Georgia played school with her friends; Ruth taught her brothers and sisters; and Helena played school with her dolls lined up on the stairs to the second floor.

**Jim:** I loved social studies and felt that the teaching of history and government would be something that I would truly enjoy. As a young man, I remember my mother encouraged me to go into education and get my teaching certification. She said it would always be something that I could fall back on. Well, I certainly did that. Still working with kids for the five years after I have retired and spending thirty-four years in schools, I think I accomplished what my mother suggested. There is no profession that touches as many people as does education. Both in the classroom and in administration, you have a permanent effect on everyone.



## PCRTA OFFICERS NOMINATION REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2013

Election of Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary occur in the odd-numbered years.

We accept with regret the resignation of **Darlene Fetterhoff** as Treasurer as of December 31, 2013, and we commend Darlene for her outstanding over-the-top service.

### Proposed Slate of Officers for 2014/2015

Vice-President:  
**Georgia Darrah**



Treasurer:  
**Dave Gynn**



Recording Secretary:  
**Ruth Weigand**



Our bylaws state that there can be nominations from the floor. If you are interested, please contact Nominations Chair, **Jan Fencl** at:

330-678-1758



Elections and installation will be held at the November luncheon meeting.

## LOOKING AT THE CHANGES IN THE BUDGET BILL—PROMISES FORGOTTEN

How long before we get a budget bill from Columbus that will make retired teachers happy?

**Bruce Hodges**, the ORTA Legislative Chairperson shared the following tidbits from the latest budget bill:

Knowledge of the bill will enable us to better prepare for our futures. We must continue lobbying and voting for people who respect our positions on legislation.

The K-12 funding portion of the bill was increased in conference committee. However, even with these additional resources, the budget is approximately \$515 million short of restoring the \$1.8 billion in reductions that school districts experienced as a result of the last budget cycle.

Another major setback in the budget is the expansion of vouchers. This proposal expands vouchers statewide even in the highest performing school districts. About 2,000 vouchers are funded for the 2013-2014 school year with the amount doubling in the following year.

The budget bill also included a section on teacher evaluation where student growth will make up 50% of a teacher's evaluation.

HB59 contains many changes to tax policy that will provide approximately a \$2.6 billion tax cut over the next three years predominately for the benefit of higher income Ohioans. This will reduce the available revenues used to fund vital state supported programs. The top 1 percent (\$335,000 and over) on average will get tax cuts of more than \$6,000 a year and the bottom fifth of Ohioans will pay \$12 more per year.

Finally, the new law limits the application of the 12.5% property tax rollback by not applying the rollback to newly voted/new or replacement levies that become effective in or after tax year 2014. Earlier passed levies will still be subject to the rollback. This will make levy passage much more difficult. We need to remember that the legislature promised the rollback when they passed the state income tax!!! How times change and how soon we forget promises.

Remember how important our membership continues to be in letting our representatives know we represent a lot of retirees. Keep up the good work and continue to contact our representatives with our opinions. **Dan**



**Dan McCombs**,  
PCRTA  
Legislative  
Chair



## TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for July 11, 2013 to July 31, 2013:

**Beginning Checking Acct. Balance: \$ 9,695.16**

**Income: \$ 1,266.00**

Local Dues 50.00

State Dues 150.00

Scholarships 113.00

Luncheon 819.00

50/50 114.00

Cookbooks 20.00

**Expenses: \$ 1,408.59**

ORTA Dues 150.00

Jim Montaquila-Scholarship 107.92

Dave Gynn-Membership 104.27

Barb Cribbs-Supplies & postage 19.40

July luncheon 1,027.00

**Ending Balance: \$ 9,552.57**

**Scholarship Funds in Checking \$ 3,717.58**

**Checking Working Balance \$ 5,834.99**

### DUES UPDATE:

Check your address label for 2012. Over 20 members have not renewed memberships in 2013 and 2012 appears on their address labels for state dues, local dues or both.

On December 31, 2013 memberships will be cancelled if you have not paid since 2012. Please renew before then so that we have a chance to keep our trustee whose strong, direct voice in Columbus helps us in many ways, especially in maintaining our benefits.

Anyone paying at this point is paying for 2014.

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

**Darlene**



Welcome to new member, **Julie Molitoris**,  
who retired from Crestwood Schools.

### OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICE PROJECT—*GIVING DOLLS'* MATERIALS:

The most-needed items to make the Giving Dolls are:

Gift Cards from JoAnn Fabric, Michaels, Wal-Mart, and VISA

Craft Items: Hair-colored yarn, woven cotton and cotton blend fabric, thread, trims, lace, and elastic (3/8 and 1/4" wide). They buy the stuffing in bulk.

Tax Deductible Cash Donations.





**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) or locate the minutes on our website ([www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net)).

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - July 11, 2013**

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

Guests **Phil Faluotico** and **Stephanie Rummel** came to encourage retired teachers to volunteer for United Way. They need volunteers to serve on the United Way Campaign Committee. Webmaster **Connie Evans** said she would put the information on our website, or members can call 330-297-1424 for more information.

--Recording Secretary **Ruth Weigand** asked the board members to give her their written report to make sure she gets all information correctly. **Kay Wise** moved to accept the minutes, seconded by **Mary Ann Brockett**, and the motion passed.

--Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs** sent out 40 letters to former scholarship recipients and received 8 responses. She will put the replies on the tables at the luncheon.

--Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported that we have a \$9,695.16 balance in the checking account, which includes \$3,881.50 for scholarships, leaving a working balance of \$5,813.66. She said \$850 was transferred from scholarship to checking to provide funds for getting the 501c3 designation.

--**Darlene** reported that as of June 30, 2013 our investment account at Stiffel Nicholas has \$44,616.03 for scholarships. The report was filed for audit.

--Vice-President **Georgia Darrah** went over the plans for the scholarship luncheon and the September luncheon. She and **Judy Morgan** went to visit the Giving Dolls office and said she things we will really enjoy her program.

--President **Helena** said that **Gary Devito** from AMBA will be at the scholarship luncheon to speak about benefits.

--ORTA Trustee **Ron Snowberger** reported that ORTA has a slide presentation available to encourage new members. He serves on the ORTA Public Relations and Legislative Committees.

--Community Service chair **Judy Morgan** said that we would be collecting school supplies in July and items for the Giving Dolls at the September luncheon.

--**Judy Morgan** also reported that members have turned in 3,900 volunteer hours so far this year.

--PCRTA Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** reported that the legislation for the GPO/WEP for social security had been reintroduced. He said it will be harder for schools to pass levies, because the 12 1/2% reduction on property taxes has been eliminated. The budget bill was 1,500 pages long and included teacher evaluations and increased money for charter schools, even though they are failing.

--Membership Chair **Dave Gynn** said that our ORTA trustee position is terminating this year, so it is important to keep our membership numbers up because the 10 largest chapters get a trustee. We had 20 members who did not renew their memberships this year for several reasons.

--Proctor Scheduler **Edith Scott** needs more people to volunteer as proctors. There is a new proctor orientation meeting on August 14 at NEOMED.

--Newsletter Editor **Pat Gynn** reported that 98 members got email notifications to find the newsletter online at our website and 314 newsletters were mailed out at a cost of \$300.42. **Judy Kirman** will take over distribution of the email newsletters.

--Nominations Chair **Jan Fencl** said that elections for Vice-president, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer occur in the odd-numbered years. Officers will be elected at the November meeting and take office in January.

--**Jan** announced the resignation of **Darlene Fetterhoff** as Treasurer for several years and thanked her for her outstanding over-the-top service.

--The slate of officers for 2013-2014 include: **Georgia Darrah** as Vice-President; **Ruth Weigand** as Recording Secretary; and **Dave Gynn** as Treasurer.

--Pre-Retirement Chair **Mary Ann Brockett** said the seminar will be held April 13, 2014 from 5-7pm at Western Reserve Media. She said the presentations would be the STRS presenter and Attorney John Flynn. We will not have an investment presenter.



--Protective Services Chair **Kay Wise** said that **Dr. Stacy Schneider** will have her students at the luncheon to take blood pressures.

--Public Relations Chair **Georgia Darrah** said she would take pictures at the luncheon for the Record Courier.

--Scholarship **Jim Montaquila** said that **Georgia Darrah** and **Connie Evans** are making a power point presentation about the scholarship recipients for the luncheon. The students and their families will be seated at different tables. The recipients will participate in a question-and-answer session. Jim said that since the beginning of the PCRTA Scholarship Program through 2013, a total of \$49,200 has been awarded to 87 deserving students.

—Social/Travel Chair **John Kerstetter** reported on the results of the interest survey. The committee has planned three events: October 10—a Fall Ride on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, a guided tour telling about the history of the park and other highlights; a December band concert in Hudson followed by dinner at Zeppe’s; and a May trip to *Mama Mia* at EJ Thomas in Akron.

—**Ron Snowberger** will be the chairman of the By-Laws Committee. Members will be **Jan Fencil, Pat Gynn, Dan McCombs, Jim Montaquila, and Saroj Sutaria.**

—**Kay Wise** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Georgia Darrah.** The motion carried.

**PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING - July 18, 2013**

--President **Helena Parry** welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She thanked **Pat Mazzer** and **Fran Pruschenko** for acting as greeters.

—**Helena** welcomed the scholarship recipients, their parents and guests: **Alexa Brewster** and her parents, **Jay and Michelle; Samantha Cooper** and her parents, **David and Kathy; Ashley Spangler**, her mother, **Tammy**, and her grandmother, **Linda Carlin; Kayla Tuma** and her parents **Ed and Michelle.**

—**Helena** asked the scholarship recipients to help her lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Then everyone joined in to sing “The Star Spangled Banner.”

—The following guests were in attendance. **Kathy Cavalier**, Ravenna; **Barb Springer**, KSU; **Julie Molitoris and Diane Caslin**, Crestwood; **Karen Balog**, Ravenna; **Gerald** from N. Olmsted; **Sondra Rorabach; Goldie Seitz, and Kathy Chappalear**, Kent.

—**Judy Morgan** passed a sheet for people to indicate the number of volunteer hours they had worked.

—**Ruth McKay** gave the meditation. She read the “ABC’s of a Pastor and then led a prayer for grace.

—**Gary DeVito**, AMBA representative, told about several benefits that are offered to ORTA members. He passed out papers and had a drawing for a \$25 BP gas card which was won by **Ruth Weigand.**

—Proctor Scheduler **Edith Scott** introduced **Sue Hricko** of NEOMED. They work together to make sure proctors are available for the tests.

—**Jim Montaquila** introduced the students and they took part in an interesting question-and-answer session.

—**Helena** thanked **Marleen Strebler** for handling the reservations and said that Marleen will be resigning in September. If you are interested in helping with this project, contact Helena Parry or anyone on the board.



**THE MAZZA MUSEUM** by Kay Wise

The Mazza Museum is the world’s largest museum featuring the art of children’s illustrators. Because I am a Mazza enthusiast, I get the mailings early for the Dr. Jerry J. Mallet Institute that presented the Mazza Summer Conference in July. I especially wanted to see Walter Wick who illustrated *I Spy: A Book of Picture Riddles* and *Can You See What I See?*

Ralph and I drove to the conference at the Mazza Museum at Findlay University on the turnpike to I-75 south to exit 159 turning east on SR224, or you could go the scenic route on 224. Either way the drive is 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

There will be a weekend Conference at the Mazza Museum on November 8 & 9, 2013 celebrating the work of Patricia Polacco. Her art from the book, *The Keeping Quilt*, was on display at the Mazza Museum. This is the book’s 25th anniversary.

If you want more information on the Mazza Museum or the November conference, check it out at [www.mazzamuseum.org](http://www.mazzamuseum.org) or call Kay Wise 330-297-1110.



**PCRTA SOCIAL COMMITTEE offers...**

**Fall Ride on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Scenic Railroad**

**October 10, 2013 10:10 to 2:20**  
Only \$15 — September 25 deadline  
Narrated Tour — Handicap Accessible

Send check made out to **PCRTA**  
to **Darlene Fetterhoff**  
2417 Duck Pond Drive, Ravenna 44266

Leaves from Akron North Station  
27 Ridge Street, Akron  
Goes to Cleveland Station & back

Questions?  
Call Darlene Fetterhoff  
330-673-8164



**Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 12 noon**



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



Buffet Menu: Chicken Valentino, Stuffed Peppers, Mashed Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, House Salad, Fresh Fruit Compote, Baked Rolls, Carrot Cake or Warm Fruit Cobbler. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the day is available to replace the entrees.

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 September 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: GIVING DOLLS SUPPLIES, SEE PAGE 4.**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

**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**

**October 10—Cuyahoga Valley  
Train Ride (see p.6)**



**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.



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) + the year.

Example: S(life) P(ann) 2013 means that local dues are paid through 2013 and would be due at this time for 2014.

Email us at: [pcrta@aol.com](mailto: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!



## 2014 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 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2014 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