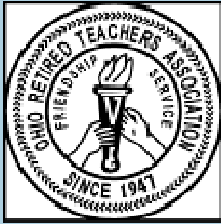


# The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County  
Retired Teachers Association



A Chapter of Ohio Retired  
Teachers Association

Desktop Volume 22 - Issue 3

June - July, 2012

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## PRESENTING...OUR 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Six future teachers, 2012 Portage County high school graduates, will be introduced at our July 19 luncheon meeting. Our scholarship committee thoroughly reviewed applications from Aurora, Crestwood, Field, Garfield, Kent Roosevelt, Ravenna, Streetsboro, and Waterloo high school students. The committee considered tests and grades, leadership and activities, community service, goals, and teacher recommendations. Plan to meet these fine young people and encourage them as they prepare for careers in education.

**Sarah Briggs** has made the most of her high school years at Kent Roosevelt by excelling in a rugged curriculum and participating in numerous school and community activities. She was a counselor at both 4-H and Parks and Recreation camps. She was an elf on the Polar Express, a clinician during Special Olympics clinics, an organizer of food drives, and an entertainer at the Stow Glen Christmas party. Her social studies teacher says, "Sarah is not content with the ordinary and has always sought to stretch intellectually to the fullest extent." Sarah plans to earn a degree in early childhood education.



**Jesseca Greene** participated in Junior Olympic volleyball and lettered in volleyball at Streetsboro High School. Her counselor reported that she "always diligently completed coursework expectations at a very high level while maintaining her involvement in school and out-of-school activities." She tutors in the middle school and dreams of being a middle school math teacher. She has worked as a hostess and server in a local restaurant. Jesseca has participated in the post-secondary option program and will attend Shawnee State University.

**Karlie Lieberth** has excelled as one of Crestwood High School's top graduates and superior athletes. She has been accepted for the honors college at the University of Akron where she will run on the cross country and track teams. She plans to teach middle school math and hopes to return to a Portage County school. A list of Karlie's volunteer and community service projects is impressive. She has been a class officer, team captain, and student council officer. Her teacher/coach tells us, "Her work ethic, leadership, and personality have distinguished her as one of the best in Crestwood's history."



## MORE 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Lauren McBride** is the valedictorian at Ravenna High School. She has been active in band and choir and has been the secretary of Key Club and National Honor Society. She participates willingly in community and church-related service activities. "Lauren's integrity, character, compassion, and achievement is unmatched by her peers," says one of her teachers. Another states, "Her honesty and integrity, caring nature, willingness to aid others, academic focus and high personal moral and ethical standards are far above those of most people." Lauren will major in special education at Cedarville University.



**Kelsey Stummer** has been a Safety Town instructor and music director for vacation Bible school. She has been recognized as an outstanding student in French and is an AP scholar at Aurora High School. She will participate in the honors program at Purdue University where she will major in elementary education and minor in dance and French. Kelsey's English teacher predicts, "She will be a successful educator because of her attention to details, ability to communicate clearly, intelligence to craft creative lessons, and the character to make her a welcome and respected member of the teaching community."



**Abigail Wemhoff** has excelled in the Teaching Professions' Program at Kent Roosevelt High School. She has also excelled in basketball and softball. She will play basketball at the University of Mount Union where she will major in middle childhood education and hopes to become a high school math teacher. Abby participates and volunteers in many service activities such as Habitat for Humanity and ReStore. She also served on the school's leadership planning committee. Her teacher/coach tells, "When one mentions Abby's name in the hallways of Roosevelt, nothing but praise and outstanding remarks are made."

**Congratulations to these six scholarship recipients for 2011!**  
**Come to the luncheon and meet these extraordinary future teachers.**

*Thoughts to Ponder...*

"All of your scholarship, all your study of Shakespeare and Wordsworth would be in vain if at the same time you did not build your character and attain mastery over your thoughts and your actions." Mahatma Ghandi

"The telephone is the greatest single enemy of scholarship; for what our intellectual forbears used to inscribe in ink now goes once over a wire into permanent oblivion." Stephen Jay Gould

"When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then will you have accomplished the meaning to live." Sasha Azvedo

## PREZ SEZ — KEEPING BUSY!

When I asked my 2nd grade teacher-daughter for some words of wisdom for this column she simply said "tell the retired teachers to sleep in....they deserve it!" I keep reminding her that when we retire we just get more busy.

What a great attendance we had at the May meeting. I've received many compliments on the table decorations....thanks go to **Georgia Darrah**. **Regina Brett**, an excellent speaker, reminded us of miracles that occur every day in our lives. We had 120 members in attendance, and three guests from NEOMED.

I trust that we will have another great attendance in July as we recognize our scholarship students for 2012. **Jim Montaquila** and his committee have worked very hard with the evaluations, and will present another great program. Jim and I were on the same stage last month at Kent Roosevelt High School as he presented the PCRTA Award and I presented the Garden Club of Kent Award.

Thanks to **Edie Scott** our partnership with NEOMED has provided the necessary monies for several scholarships each year. The coordination and organization of the proctors is priceless. If you haven't volunteered to proctor, you are missing out on the time of your life. And you thought the tests you gave were tough! Your help is always needed; image all the volunteer hours

you can rack up. **Judy Morgan** will be extra proud of you as you turn in your hours.

Many of you probably know someone who retired from active service this year. Please consider inviting them to the luncheon in July and because of your caring, we just might have a new member join us. Remember to add them to your reservation or call **Maureen Strebler**. You truly are special as you work your daily miracles and they are continuing. It is so important that we continue to strengthen our membership and continue to have a voice in legislative concerns through PCRTA and ORTA.

With a little break in the weather, I hope that you have been able to get out into your flower and vegetable gardens. Most of us find our gardens an enjoyable place, and the exercise doesn't hurt us either. Looking forward to our meeting in September, we have been able to obtain a district representative from the *Silver Sneakers Program*, along with a local trainer. This will be a program you won't want to miss. What a great way to stay fit and healthy.

In the meantime, please remember to keep up to date on legislative matters, which I sometimes call "The Columbus Games." I think you will enjoy scanning the web sites of PCRTA, ORTA, and STRS. Thanks for accepting me as your president, and thanks to our wonderful board members; they make the president's job so easy. See you in July!

**Ron**



Ron Snowberger, President of PCRTA

## BOOKS IN JULY By Nancy Granville

Bring books in July, to the luncheon, oh my,  
Bring books to the luncheon to trade.  
Bring books to trade, for the ladies and gents  
Bring books that bring joy and escape.

Bring books to the luncheon in July, oh do,  
Bring books for I love them, don't you?  
Bring books for a child, you know one of course!  
Bring books for all ages, please do.



## BRING BOOKS TO TRADE!

We will have our annual book exchange at our July luncheon meeting. Bring a few books you have recently enjoyed, and take home a few that look good to you.

Please leave your old college texts, older books, and your old encyclopedias at home.

Leftover books will be donated to the Reed Memorial Library book sale.





## TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for May 10–June 10, 2012:

<b>Beginning Checking Acct. Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 13,759.26</b>
<b>Income:</b>	<b>\$ 3,895.00</b>
Dues, luncheon, donations, NEOMED	
<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>\$ 3,031.15</b>
ORTA dues	240.00
NEOMED luncheon	1,440.00
J Montaquila—scholarship	76.15
G. Darrah, Decorations	36.97
K. Stummer, scholarship	1000.00
Gathering Place charity donation	200.00
Dee Smith, Memorial program	19.11
Pat Mazzer, Memorial program	15.92
April bank fee	3.00
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$ 14,623.11</b>
<b>Scholarship Funds in Checking</b>	<b>\$ 9,391.00</b>
<b>Checking Working Balance</b>	<b>\$ 5,232.11</b>

### NOTES FROM THE TREASURER:

Please check your newsletter address labels to determine your membership status. If 2011 appears, then you still owe for this year.

For example, S2011P2011 indicates that \$40 is due—\$30 for ORTA and \$10 for PCRTA. Some may just owe for one organization rather than both. Please call me if you have questions: Darlene at 330-673-8164.

### LOSING MEMBERS:

Believe it or not, we lose members. You know the obvious ways, but there are members who try to hide from us. They have moved and now we have no forwarding addresses. Even ORTA can't find them. If you know where Elaine Ochwat or Patricia Pownall are living or their phone numbers, please call me at 330-673-8164. Thanks. **Darlene**

### THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY:

Scholarship Donations of \$50 or more donated at one time: **Terri Thomas**



### *In Memoriam*

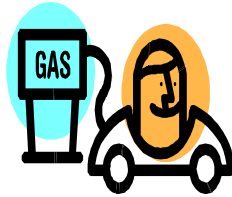


**Harvey W. Shumaker** retired from Hudson High School as an English teacher. He started in 1960 and retired 24 years later. He died April 19, 2012. Harvey was a life member of PCRTA and ORTA since 1993. Condolences may be sent to his daughter, Roberta Shumaker, at 395 S. Main St., Apt 222, Munroe Falls. OH 44262. Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

**Betty Jean Pierson** retired from Kent Schools in 1983 where she taught at Franklin Elementary School. She was a longtime PCRTA/ORTA member from 1991 through 2009. Her passing was on June 2, 2012. Condolences may be sent to her son, Tom Pierson, at 2843 Norwood St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221. Our sympathies to her family and friends.



## PASS BY THE PUMP: Habits of Highly Efficient Drivers



The following article was originally published by *AARP*, November 2011, p.36. In case you missed it, I thought it is very pertinent now that vacation season is here. **Tai Stillater** is a transportation researcher at the University of California, Davis. Behind the wheel, he's also an enthusiast of the eco-driving movement known as *hypermiling*, in which drivers compete to squeeze amazing fuel economy from their cars. Stillwater conserves gas without resorting to such extreme hypermiling measures as drafting behind 18-wheelers, removing the backseat to save weight, or zooming around corners without braking (to lose momentum). Here's how he does it:

### 1. Slow down.

Speed kills your fuel economy, that is: Driving 5 miles over 60 mph is like paying 29 cents for every gallon of gas you burn. That premium goes up as your speed increases.

### 2. Lose the rack.

Automotive add-ons such as flags, bike carriers, and ski or luggage racks undermine your car's aerodynamics, increasing drag and wasting fuel. Close the windows, too, particularly at highway speeds.

### 3. Be a Smooth Operator.

According to the EPA, drivers who accelerate moderately and evenly and go easy on the brakes (coasting when possible) can save \$1 or more per gallon. At highway speeds, using cruise control can help by maintaining a steady rate.

### 4. Chuck the junk in the trunk.

Extra weight makes the engine work harder—an extra 100 pounds might cut fuel economy by 2 percent, especially in smaller, lighter vehicles. Don't use your hatchback like a rolling closet, and resist the urge to store bowling balls in the backseat.

### 5. Kill the engine.

Just 15 minutes of idling can burn a quarter of a gallon of gasoline, particularly if you have the air-conditioning blasting. So turn off the engine whenever you are parked.

Kay Wise, Chair of the  
Informative & Protective  
Services Committee



## ORTA 65TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK IS NOW AT THE PRINTERS!

Get out your aprons. Invite your family, friends and neighbors.

The ORTA 65th anniversary cookbook is at the printers. Quick and easy recipes representing all ORTA chapters will be available later this summer.

President Ron has order information. Don't be left out; order now. Call him at 330-678-3268.



## OHIO EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY

Ohio History Center and the Ohio Village  
800 E. 17th Ave., Columbus, OH

Saturday, August 11, 2012  
10:00–5:00 pm

Come join us as we celebrate Ohio's  
teachers and school personnel!



Retired teachers and their families are FREE

ORTA volunteers will present  
one-room schoolhouse lessons



Dan McCombs, ORTA Trustee for PCRTA and ORTA Chair of Legislative Committee

## ORTA SUPPORTS STRS PENSION REFORM POSITION

Hope you are having a relaxed summer before the hectic political campaigns inundate the airwaves. Even though it is a long time until the November Presidential election, I am already tired of the negative political banter found on all stations all the time.

My major concern this year is that many people will not even vote in the upcoming election. Too many are getting turned off by the negative campaigning. It still appears that the Ohio House of Representatives will not address our pension concerns until after the fall election. This delay in action on their part is costing the retirement systems millions of dollars in uncollected employee contributions.

Please note that ORTA has supported the position of STRS regarding pension reform so we can continue to enjoy a stable and beneficial retirement. Even though it probably will result in a lowering of the COLA (Cost Of Living Adjustment) and larger employee contributions, it makes sense over the long run.

Please join me in letting our Portage County House members know where we stand on the STRS proposal. Have a great Summer and get ready to cast your ballot in the Fall.

**Dan**

# PCRTA

### PCRTA OFFICERS

President & ORTA Trustee: Ron Snowberger

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: Helena Parry

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  
Saroj Sutaria

Webmaster: Connie Evans

Want to join this team??

Contact any one of us!





Helena Parry,  
Membership Chair

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Sixty-nine letters of invitation to join the PCRTA along with a free lunch ticket and a PCRTA brochure went out to recent retirees from the schools in Portage County.

Mike Hardy hand delivered 15 to the Kent City Schools while most of the other schools permitted us to send the information through the Portage County Educational Service Center mail to various schools.

Thanks to the superintendents and their secretaries who distributed our information, free tickets and brochures to their retirees.

*Helena*

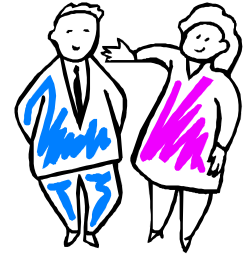
## WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

**Theresa (Terri) Thomas** retired in 2010 from Crestwood Schools.

**Alan Balog** retired from Ravenna Schools.

**Cathy Steele** retired in 1999 from Rootstown Schools.

**Connie Leidel** retired in 2005 from Ravenna City Schools.



## “PORTAGE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS: Our Most Valuable Employees”



This was the title of an article that appeared in NEOMED’s newsletter *THE DISPATCH* from the division of Academic Affairs, Volume 1, Issue 2, February 2012. Here’s what the article said:

“Did you know that since May 2007, NEOMED exams have been proctored? Thanks to members of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association (PCRTA) (<http://www.pcrta.net>) we are able to accomplish this directive. This represents quite a change from the past when students adhered to an honor code, and staff members were present only for logistical/exam administration issues.

The volunteer arrangement is a win/win situation for both groups. The volunteers bring a wealth of experience and varied personalities to the position and provide a valuable service to the University and its students. In return NEOMED is a major contributor to their scholarship fund. Raising money for scholarships to promote the teaching profession is one of the primary purposes of the organization, and they do this with fund raising efforts, contributions from members, interest on investments and the volunteer program at NEOMED.

The contributions that NEOMED has made to the PCRTA during the past five years has helped the scholarship program grow from three \$500 scholarships in 2007 to six \$1,000 scholarships in 2011.



Edith Scott

Arranging for proctors for the many exams that are administered is a cooperative effort between **Edith Scott**, long-time PCRTA member and volunteer coordinator for the PCRTA, and **Suzanne Hricko**, who coordinates exam administration in Academic Affairs. Currently there are 35-40 active volunteer proctors. During the 2011 academic year, the retired teachers proctored 105 exams, totaling 781.5 volunteer hours. Hricko believes the teachers enjoy coming to the College and working with the students, and the Academic Affairs staff definitely appreciate their efforts. Hricko claims, “I don’t know what we would do without them.” And...what would we do without NEOMED!



Sue Hricko



Call **Edith Scott** at 330-297-1812 to sign up for the next proctor training class, get to meet **Sue Hricko**, and you could join this group of “most valuable employees” at NEOMED and have a great time doing it!

**MEETING MINUTES** - Barb Cribbs, Acting Secretary



Highlights from the last Executive Committee and luncheon meetings 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 **Barb Cribbs** (330-442-0842), email [PCRTA@aol.com](mailto:PCRTA@aol.com), or locate the minutes on our website ([www.pcrta.net](http://www.pcrta.net)).

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - May 10, 2012**

—Corresponding Secretary, **Barb Cribbs**, submitted the minutes from the last meeting and will be taking the minutes until **Ruth Weigand** is able to return. The minutes were approved with one correction/clarification from **Marleen Strebler**: *Members should make advanced luncheon reservations rather than paying at the door.*

—Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** gave the financial report. There is \$5,417.26 in the checking account plus \$8,342.00 designated for scholarships. **Dan McCombs** made a motion that as the CD's mature they be moved into a business account. **Georgia Darrah** seconded the motion and it passed.

—Vice-President **Georgia Darrah** reported that **Regina Brett**, our luncheon speaker is accepting a donation to her favorite charity, *The Gathering Place*, a community that supports people touched by cancer through free programs and services. **Ron Snowberger** moved that we donate \$200 from our treasury plus the profit we make from the sale of her books. **Mary Ann Brockett** seconded the motion and it passed.

—We will have 40 copies of **Regina Brett's** new book, *Be The Miracle*, and 10 copies of her old book, *God Never Blinks*. We paid \$16 per book which usually sell for \$22. **Dan McCombs** suggested we sell them for \$20, with the \$4 to be used as a donation to *The Gathering Place* as well.

—**Georgia** reported she has two possible programs for next year: the *Honor Flight*, a program that takes WWII vets to Washington, D.C. and *The Giving Doll* program that provides dolls to sick or lost children and children of service men and women.

—ORTA Trustee **Ron Snowberger** said he has been to Columbus four times. They have been reviewing the chapter yearly reports. He complimented **Judy Morgan** on her report for Community Services. Our chapter is second in the state for the number of volunteer hours.

—**Pat Gynn** reported that ORTA President **Dave Gynn** said he is proud of our chapter. He said that the Trustee report **Ron Snowberger** gave to ORTA was outstanding.

—Community Services Chair **Judy Morgan** reported she received a letter thanking us for our donation to Safer Futures. We will collect diapers for the Clothing Center at the May luncheon. She asked for ideas for other groups to help. **Georgia Darrah** suggested stuffed animals for hospitals. **Pat Gynn** mentioned the APL.

—**Judy** also announced volunteers are needed to make cookies for the GED Graduation June 7 at Maplewood.

—Membership chair **Helena Parry** reported that **Connie Evans** had designed a new flyer printed in black and white on colored paper for 18 cents each. **Darlene Fetterhoff** said we just got two new members, but we have more than 40 dual members who have not rejoined for 2012 as of this date.

—Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** told about the changes STRS is suggesting: no increase in employer contributions; member contributions increased by 4%, phased in over 4 years; Final Average Salary based on the highest 5 years as of August 2015; eligibility for full benefits increased to 35 years service by 2023 with a minimum age of 60 as of 2026; no COLA is 2013, 2% COLA thereafter; new retirees receive no COLA for 5 years; and no increase in benefits with 35 years service. ORTA supports the STRS plan.

—**Pat Mazzer** and **Dee Smith** will be co-chairing the Sunshine Committee. They send get well, sympathy, and congratulations notes to members. They will conduct the memorial service at the May luncheon. There will be six members honored. Only one family member wished to attend. **Pat** suggested the practice of inviting family members to be discontinued.

—Newsletter Editor **Pat Gynn** is looking for someone to help with the newsletter. **Saroj Sutaria** suggested that the names and phone numbers of board members should be in the newsletter. **Connie Evans** questioned having the phone numbers on our website. **Georgia Darrah** suggested eliminating the phone numbers on the website edition.

—Nominations Chair **Jan Fencl** says she needs someone to replace her as she is often out of town.

—**Richard** and **Mary Ann Brocket** reported that only one other chapter had more attendees at their pre-retirement program. **Ron** congratulated them on the program.





–Scholarship Chair **Jim Montaquila** reported we had 12 applications from 8 schools. Six scholarships will be awarded at the July luncheon.

–**Evelyn Park** will aid **Saroj Sutaria** in taking requests for rides to the meeting.

–Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported on the filing of the 990 Form. Our accountant, **Alan Balog**, suggested we consider applying for 501(c)3 status. This would designate us as a not for profit/ tax exempt organization and anyone donating money to PCRTA could claim a tax deduction. After lengthy discussion, **Darlene Fetterhoff** moved that we proceed with trying to attain 501(c)3 status. **Jan Fencil** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**LUNCHEON MEETING—May 17, 2012.**

–**Pat Farley** and **Margie Miller** were the greeters.

–**Dottie Emerick** read the meditation written by **Adele Fussner**, who had been called out of town.

–President **Ron Snowberger** called the meeting to order and led us in the Pledge. He thanked members who had brought diapers for the County Clothing Center or had donated money to the cause.

–**Ron** commented that our chapter’s Trustee report to ORTA is being used as a model. He urged members to check legislative websites and contact legislators as the discussion of pension changes continue.

–**Ron** mentioned that 10 PCRTA members will attend the Regional ORTA meeting next Tuesday in Canton.

–**Edith Scott** made an appeal for more proctors.

–**Dee Smith** and **Pat Mazzer** led a Memorial Service for six of our members who passed away this year. These members represent a total of more than 207 years as role models, leaders, guides and friends. They were: **Margaret Matjunas**, 32 years in Ravenna; **Kay Shutler**, 40 years in Tallmadge, Mesopotamia, Randolph, and Kent; **Robert Stokes**, 39 years in the Kent State Biological Sciences Department; **Betty Theiss**, first grade teacher in Ravenna for over 30 years; **Douglas Bennett**, 33 years in instrumental music at Old Trail School and Ravenna; and **Marjorie Butler**, 33 years in Garfield Schools.

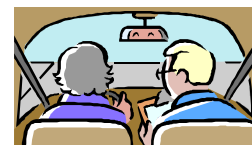
–**Regina Brett**, *New York Times* best-selling author and award-winning *Cleveland Plain Dealer* columnist was our speaker. She shared memories of some of our members who were her past teachers. Copies of her books were available and after the program, she graciously held a book signing.

–A donation, as well as proceeds from the sale of the books will go to Regina’s favorite charity, “*The Gathering Place*, a community that supports, educates, and empowers individuals and families touched by cancer through programs and services provided free of charge.”



**AARP DRIVER SAFETY CLASS—SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR ORTA MEMBERS**

AARP is offering an Educator Appreciation Promotion in July and August. It allows ORTA members to take advantage of AARP Driver Safety’s classroom course for just \$5...a savings of up to \$9. The AARP Driver Safety classroom course is the nation’s first and largest course designed for drivers age 50 and older. You’ll learn proven safety strategies to maintain your confidence behind the wheel. Plus, you could get a great discount on your car insurance!



Each class is 4 hours long on one day. There are 3 classes offered in Portage County. Call the telephone number at each venue to register for the class.

July 13, 2012	10:00 am	Streetsboro Senior Center, 9184 State Rt. 43, Streetsboro, OH 44241 330-626-2398
July 14, 2012	12:30 pm	Robinson Memorial Hospital, Room 3-A, 6847 Chestnut St., Ravenna, OH 44266 330-297-2576
July 23, 2012	12:00 pm	Aurora Parks and Rec, 129 W. Pioneer Trail, Aurora, OH 44202 330-995-9148



## LOOKING BACK AT CURSIVE WRITING by Norm Park, Archivist

Every once in a while I'll come across one of my grandmother's letters buried in an old trunk or closet or in an album of some kind. They were written to my father sometime between 1915 and 1935.

I gaze in awe at her flowing and very meticulous handwriting. She needed no lined paper to keep her sentences arrow straight. Her ink pen was absent of all blots, smears or signs of "running low." She did not cross her final t's, which was the custom and her r's differed from today's.

I regard each sentence, each paragraph as a work of art. Perhaps fine penmanship represented culture and refinement during a somewhat drab period of the late eighteen hundreds. And by today's standards we might regard her school as a bit primitive and one wonders why such great emphasis was afforded a school subject which has been completely abandoned today.

Long gone are the green Zaner-Bloser cards which held a commanding position above the blackboard, and upon this slate the pleasing curves were practiced.

I don't suppose there are many today, especially amongst our newer retirees, who stood over their students and guided their arms (no, no not your wrist) in sweeping O's.

Ah me, I'm old enough and I *did* do that. It was in the fifties and possibly, into the early sixties and then somewhere along the way it just stopped. There was no time allotted to it in the new regimented scheduling where every minute has to be accounted for.

The result, I'm seeing more and more, is the death of cursive writing. Children and many adults have changed over to printing. My wife read recently where some children were shown something written in cursive and to them it was a foreign language.

***"The result I'm seeing more and more, is the death of cursive writing."***

Our granddaughter is a freshman at the U of Texas. I had written to her and made some minor comment about cursive. She wrote back with the comment "Grandpa, I'm writing to you in CURSIVE. Just for you." As bright as this young lady is, I could tell it was a bit of a struggle—not her usual mode of communication.

Untold thousands of languages and the markings used to identify them are long dead, erased from history. The language of Beowulf, Shakespeare, and Madison has steadily evolved, and our language and our form of writing are not immune.

And yet I hate to see my grandmother's beautiful script go the way of small clay pillows poked with odd-shaped styluses.

**Norm**

## A LETTER TO MY TEACHER, RUTH WEIGAND...from Rene Dawn White Chlysta



Speaking of getting letters...PCRTA received this letter from Rene Dawn White Chlysta who had seen a picture of Ruth Weigand, her former third-grade teacher, in the PCRTA newsletter and felt compelled to write to her. Letters like these are what keep teachers going strong. Here is an excerpt from it:

"When I was in your third grade class at Field Central Elementary School, I could not know how sheltered my family kept me. I could not travel and experience the many wonders of the world beyond Brimfield, our family farm, and my relatives' homes in West Virginia. But my circumstances were only one reality. You showed me learning—language, mathematics, social studies, nature and science...I remember one time, even when our class was outside coming in from being behind the building...I noticed some sort of insect or arachnid near the door, mentioned it to you, and we talked about its existence. You called other students over to see it and notice it...You tied it into what we had been going over in class...I remember your face, your smile, your intellect, as we pondered over that little critter. There were little times like that in your class that made me very happy on a daily basis. But it might be your character and mannerisms I remember most. You were so organized and exact. You were thorough and dependable. You were honest and respectful and kind. You were fair. And you have always been one of the people responsible for those qualities in the teacher I continue to become. Thanks for being my third grade teacher."



**Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, July 19 12 noon**

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

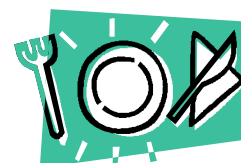
Buffet Menu: Beef Stroganoff, Chicken Parmesan, Penne Pasta, Green Beans, Salads, Rolls/Butter, Coffee/Tea, and Assorted Desserts; the NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the day is available to take the place of the beef or chicken entree

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

Your name and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$12 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 13. 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:** Books to trade...Good books to trade and take home to read.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

August 11—2012 Educator Appreciation Day—Ohio Village 10-5

September 13—Executive Board Meeting

September 20—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting  
Program: Silver Sneakers – Health and Fitness;  
Welcome New Retirees

October 1—Newsletter Deadline

November 8—Executive Board Meeting



November 15—Luncheon Meeting  
Program: Deborah Easton;  
Election and Installation of Office

December 13—Luncheon Meeting—  
Christmas Party; Forever Harmony Chorus

Know of anyone who needs a card for illness, sympathy, or congratulations??  
Call or email **Pat Mazzer** and she will send that person a card from PCRTA.  
330-673-3174 or patmazzer@aol.com

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

The PCRTA luncheon meetings are held at noon at the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED, Northeast Ohio Medical University, 4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272 across the street from Rootstown High School.



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

Year= Your membership is paid through that year

S= Life Member of ORTA—Ohio Retired Teachers Association

P= Life Member of PCRTA—Portage County Retired Teachers Assn.

A= Associate member of PCRTA

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!



## 2012 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Retirement District & Year \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Last 4 digits of Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(Requested by ORTA for a new member at initial joining.)

Gift Membership from \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

### 2012 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