

The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County
Retired Teachers Association

Desktop Volume 23 Issue 1 January - March 2013



PCRTA—
A Chapter of Ohio Retired
Teachers Association

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Honor Flight Cleveland Funds Vets' Trips to WWII Memorial

Honor Flight Cleveland, a volunteer organization that funds trips for veterans to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., will be the featured topic at the PCRTA luncheon meeting at noon on **Thursday, March 21**, in the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED in Rootstown. Our speaker will be **Janet Merrick**, Board Secretary and Director of Human Services for Honor Flight Cleveland.

In May 2004 when President Bush dedicated the World War II Memorial to honor "The Greatest Generation," every veteran who had fought in that war was already a senior citizen. Few had the monetary or physical resources to complete the trip on their own via car, bus or plane. Enter: Honor Flight Cleveland.



Funded entirely by contributions from individuals, as well as fraternal organizations like the American Legion, VFW and Am Vets, Honor Flight Cleveland provides an all-expense-paid trip to the memorial for 25 veterans nine or ten times each year. From 2007 to 2012, more than 2,300 U.S. veterans have participated in these excursions that depart from Cleveland-Hopkins Airport.

In addition to the WWII Memorial, highlights of the trip include the Korean and Viet Nam War memorials, the Lincoln Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. Veterans tour Washington, D.C. in climate-controlled motor coaches, accompanied by Guardians, board members and volunteers. It is volunteers who make these trips possible, contributing more than 53,000 hours since the program's inception.

Veterans are flown on a first-come, first-served basis. Top priority is currently given to WWII veterans and all other veterans with a terminal illness. Second priority is Korean War veterans and then Viet Nam War veterans. At Cleveland Hopkins Airport, each veteran is provided a wheelchair for use throughout the trip. For information, applications or to make a donation, visit their website at <http://www.honorflightcleveland.com>.



PCRTA member, **John Lilley**, participated in an Honor Flight on May 19, 2012, which just happened to be his wedding anniversary with his wife Kathy. John was accompanied by his son, Ian, as a Guardian who paid his own fare. They left Akron-Canton Airport around 5 in the morning and got home late the same day. He was impressed with everything they saw, especially the World War II Memorial. John enjoyed the many people who stopped to talk to the vets.

John served in WW II in the Navy with the Lighter Than Air unit, assembling and repairing blimps. When he attended Kent State, he joined ROTC and was later commissioned as an Army lieutenant, serving for 27 years.

VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS TALLY SHEET

Retired teachers are a rich source of talent for volunteer and community service activities.

Keep this form to report your service hours for January through December, 2013.

Then mail this form to **Judith Morgan** in December at **265 Jade Boulevard, Streetsboro, OH 44241.**

Check the areas where you volunteer and write your total volunteer hours below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Animal welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical societies	<input type="checkbox"/> Patriotic organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Schools
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/> Political organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior Centers
<input type="checkbox"/> Coaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/> Proctoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Crusades/Drives	<input type="checkbox"/> Museums	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Homes	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations	<input type="checkbox"/> PCRTA
<input type="checkbox"/> Handicap Assist	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Retirement homes	<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA
<input type="text"/> Other (list) _____			

Your Name _____

Your Volunteer Hours:

January _____ February _____ March _____ April _____ May _____ June _____

July _____ August _____ September _____ October _____ November _____ December _____



ORTA collects this data to let the state and communities realize the economic impact and value that our members bring through their volunteer efforts. Our Defined Benefit pension lets us be free to volunteer our time rather than having to take on a second job or worrying about our pension expiring before we do.

Last year, PCRTA members volunteered over 10,000 hours. Let's see what we can do this year!

Judy

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – SAVE THE DATE:

<p>March 14 – Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>March 21 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Speaker: Janet Merrick of Honor Flight Cleveland; Memorial Service</p> <p>April 1 – Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>April 11 – KSU Fashion Museum Trip</p> <p>May 9 – Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>May 16 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Speaker: Dr. Randy Oberbeck, author of “No Child Left Behind,” honoring brave teachers</p> <p>June 1 – Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>July 11 – Executive Board Meeting</p>	<p>July 18 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Program: Scholarship Recipients</p> <p>August 1 – Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>September 12 – Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>September 19 –Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Program: Jan Householder, “Giving Dolls” program for hospitals</p> <p>October 1– Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>November 14 – Executive Board Meeting</p> <p>November 21 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Program: Ron Snowberger, Telling about His Educational Trip to China</p> <p>December 13 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED Program: Vocalist with Flute and Piano Accompaniment Michelle & Richard Worthing; Christmas Party</p>	<p>The Executive Board meetings will be held at the Kent Public Library at 9:30 am.</p> <p>The luncheon meetings will be held at noon at the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED, Northeast Ohio Medical University, 4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, Ohio 44272 across the street from Rootstown High School. Enter by the drive by Key Bank.</p>
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER – EXAMINING OUR GOALS FOR 2013

Happy New Year to all of you; and may blessings, good health, wealth, cheer and happiness follow you this year. With so many tragedies left behind us now, the effects will linger forever. As a changing culture, it seems that we need some changes that will restore values that relate to the worth and dignity of human beings. What these changes could be might take some time to resolve, but we seem to need to begin somewhere.

As a group of retired teachers, what can we do? Should we add to our continued mission and goals of providing our volunteerism to many causes, providing a trustee at the state level to be our voice in our ever-changing government, providing socialization activities for our members, and keeping tabs on our pensions and health care plans? If you have any suggestions as a possible new goal for PCRTA, please email or call me.

I asked the Executive Board at our January meeting to be thinking of examining our mission and goals as well. Should it be that we individually email or write to our government officials at the local, state and federal levels more, or should it be that we each volunteer, if able, just one more place where we can make a difference in the life of a child or needy adult? Should we encourage joining Silver Sneakers for more personal exercise? What should or could it be? Should we have more plays like the one we had at our Christmas Party? Should we individually lend a hand to our local schools and join a levy committee? Let me hear from you.

One of my personal goals as your new PCRTA President is to email our legislators more and to keep a more astute eye upon the changes at the local, state and federal levels. For example, I recently received a 28-page document from ORTA Director Ann Hanning via Dave Gynn with the topic *National Council on Teacher Retirement Federal E News*. (Dave warned me that this document was heavy reading.)



Also, I recently reviewed all the changes Governor Kasich has on his agenda: severance tax, lowering state income tax, turnpike tolls, school funding reform, and others.

Another goal is to give ample time to be the President of the PRCTA and to continue to lead and work with a very capable Executive Board. I hope this commitment to be President does not take too much time away from my family, other friends, choir, garden clubs, cooking, knitting, housekeeping, floral design, facebook, care for my dog and more.

Regarding the position of a trustee to ORTA is the fact that we only have the privilege to do so if we continue to be one of the top ten chapters in numbers of dual memberships in both ORTA and PCRTA. The top ten are not figured on the population of your local but just plainly the top ten in numbers of each local retired teachers' organizations across the state.

Well, I want you to be well aware that our own **David Gynn**, outgoing ORTA President, and **Dan McCombs**, our most recent past trustee (due to term restrictions), spent many hours in Columbus lobbying for us. David announced at the December luncheon meeting that it was stated that, if it had not been for the retired teachers' groups, we would never have maintained the defined benefit pension.

So you see, we are not a political organization; but as a group we can have some influence upon our political system. Folks, membership in both ORTA and PCRTA are vital to our cause. Please ask a retired teacher friend who is not a member with us to please spare \$40 of their budget and join us. Also, please think about how you can further your personal involvement in the PCRTA and think about our goals and our mission.

Contact me with your ideas:

330-673-0577 hmparry@att.net **Helena**

“So you see, we are not a political organization; but as a group we can have some influence upon our political system. Folks, membership in both ORTA and PCRTA are vital to our cause.”



Helena Parry,
PCRTA
President

“The greater the loyalty of a group toward the group, the greater is the motivation among the members to achieve the goals of the group, and the greater the probability that the group will achieve its goals.” Rensis Likert, American educator and organizational psychologist

TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for January 1, 2013 thru January 27, 2013:

Beginning Checking Acct. Balance:	\$ 12,217.09
Income: No Activity	\$ 0.00
Expenses: No Activity	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance:	\$ 12,217.09
Scholarship Funds in Checking	\$ 8,480.00
Checking Working Balance	\$ 3,737.09



Dues Reminder

2013 dues should be paid if your newsletter address label contains a 2012 for ORTA and/or PCRTA memberships. ORTA is \$30 annually and PCRTA is \$10.

Also, a reminder to help us save money— if you could receive your newsletter via email that would save us nearly \$5 yearly per person. That is half your annual dues. You can print it from the website if you want a paper copy. Just let Pat Gynn or me know.

Any questions, call me at 330-673-8164.

Darlene

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

In July a scholarship will be dedicated to our deceased members who have had contributions made in their memories.

Adele Fussner and Edith Scott in memory of member **Les Bennett**.

Marylou Ritz, Jane Hostler, the Foldessy family and friends in memory of **Alice Foldessy**.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOLARSHIPS:

The **Bica Family** has donated \$1,000 in memory of **Teresa Bica**. A separate scholarship will be given in her name.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Alberta Caetta

Richard (Dick) Mitchell 1997 Hocking College

Virginia Kuyon Rootstown 2012

Shirley Dubetz Friend of education and wife of a deceased educator



PLEASE BRING— NEEDED ITEMS FOR COUNTY CLOTHING CENTER

The County Clothing Center has put out a request for toilet tissue, paper towels, drinking cups, paper plates and napkins, plastic ware and liquid hand soap because their funding is less now. Please bring these things to the March luncheon meeting. Thanks!



In Memoriam...

Hazel Hanning retired in 1974 from Southeast Schools. She died on December 31, 2008, at the age of 96, according to her daughter who sent us a note recently. Hazel lived in Atwater but later lived in Bidwell, OH. She was a dual life member since 1995. Our belated sympathy to her family and friends.

Helen Holbrook passed on November 11, 2011, in Ravenna. She had lived in West Virginia for the last ten years. Helen was a member since 2010 and retired from Garfield Schools in 1982. Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Harvey Shoemaker retired from Hudson High School as an English teacher. He started in 1960 and retired 24 years later. He died April 10, 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 Jane 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. Our sincere sympathy to her family and friends.

Karen Shipley retired in 2002 from Kent Schools. She was an ORTA/PCRTA member for 10 years. Karen passed on July 11, 2012. Our sympathies go to her husband, John, an associate member for many years, her family & friends.

Virginia Kitchin, who retired from Kent City Schools in 1975, had previously taught in Rootstown. She died on September 25, 2012. Virginia was a dual life member since 1991. We offer our sincere sympathy to her husband Paul, her family and her friends.

Lois Stewart lived to be over 100 years old. In 2006, when PCRTA celebrated its 40th anniversary, **Pat Gynn** and **Darlene Fetterhoff** interviewed four of our most senior members for an oral history of their teaching experiences. This took the form of a film with music and graphics. All four ladies, **Mildred Bumphrey**, **Doris Wise**, **Mildred Price** and **Lois**, vividly shared their memories to our delight. Copies of the DVD were given to the Kent Free Library and the Kent Historical Society. Sorry to say that all four ladies are now deceased. **Lois** passed on October 12, 2012. She was a member of PCRTA since 1991. Our sincere sympathies to family and friends.

Marian Gussett, a resident of Medina, passed on October 18, 2012. She had been a dual life member since 1991. Marian retired as a business teacher in 1982 from Field Schools. Our sympathy to her family and friends.

Patricia Pownall passed on October 22, 2012. She was retired from Crestwood Schools in 1995 after 23 years of service. She became a member of PCRTA and ORTA in 2011. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Les Bennett, who passed away on Nov. 2, 2012, was retired in 1984 from Tallmadge Schools as a music teacher. He was an active member of PCRTA beginning in 2000 and was an assistant treasurer for many years, as well as our song leader. Many of us enjoyed Les' sweet disposition and friendly smile. He became a life member of ORTA in 2000. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Karen, his family and his friends. So many of us in PCRTA miss him.

David Moulton retired in 2002 from Maplewood Career Center as an agriculture instructor. Dave passed at the age of 62 on November 29, 2012. He had been a dual member for 2 years. Our sincere sympathy to his family and friends.

M. Alice Foldessy retired in 1986 from Streetsboro Schools as an elementary teacher. She was a longtime life member since 1991. Alice passed on January 7, 2013. Gail Danesi and Renee Burch Linnell, her daughters, are current life members. Our sincere sympathy to her daughters and to all of her family and friends.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Dave Gynn,
Membership
Chair

Membership Matters.
Membership should be everyone's concern.

Membership matters to the Ohio legislature. The recent pension reform legislation guarantees that we will continue to receive our defined benefits--for now. Legislators listened to the ORTA members who contacted them with personal stories of the importance of this pension reform. They listened, and they responded in a bipartisan way. ORTA will continue to monitor proposed changes to insure our pension benefits remain.

Membership matters at ORTA. Only the ten chapters with the highest membership can appoint trustees to the ORTA Executive Board. We have always had a trustee and must increase our membership to retain a trustee. Our trustee helps form ORTA policies and activities.

Membership matters in Portage County. PCRTA members volunteer a huge number of hours for local organizations, as well as provide support through community service projects to local agencies. The value of our volunteerism increases as our membership increases.

Membership matters for future teachers. We can be pleased with our efforts to offer scholarships to high school seniors who will be future teachers. Our list of proctors for NEOMED tests must grow to insure volunteers for all tests, which results in contributions to our scholarship fund.

There is strength in numbers. Our membership numbers will grow when every member contacts a potential new member. Here's the deal for you: Bring a new member to a meeting and your name goes into a drawing to win a prize.

Dave



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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 PCRTA President & Current ORTA Trustee:
Ron Snowberger

PCRTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Archival: Norm Park

Community Service & Volunteer Hours:
Judy Morgan

Legislative: Dan McCombs

Membership: Dave Gynn

Memorial and Sunshine:
Pat Mazzer (cards) 330-673-3174
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!



FREE MEMORY SCREENINGS



Kay Wise, Chair of Informative and Protective Services

On the back of “Robinson Today,” Winter, 2013, is a Community Calendar for January-April where I noticed Free Memory Screenings being provided by the health education nurses. They are given on Tuesdays in February from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Call the Robinson Health Education Center at 330-297-2576 for more information.

I found the room at the hospital for the memory screening. I recognized the name Mindy Gusz who did the screening. I kidded her about my wearing a necklace with a K so I wouldn’t forget my name. The weekend before my son, Victor, teased me about forgetting to go to the screening.

I was told the name and address of a person. About five minutes later I was asked to repeat it. The person was John Brown and an address. Then I was given a circle and asked to put the numbers of a clock. Then I was given a time and told to indicate the time on the clock. There were nine items on the ten-minute assessment in all, and I got them all right.

I received a certificate of participation that said the test used for screening was the GPCOG test, the General Practitioner assessment of COGNition. The testers said I could give the certificate to my general physician.

A memory screening is a simple and safe evaluation tool that checks memory and other thinking skills. It can indicate whether an additional check up by a qualified healthcare professional is needed.

Alzheimer’s disease is a slow, progressive brain disorder that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function and eventually death. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common form of dementia. It is estimated that as many as 5.1 million Americans have Alzheimer’s disease, and the incidence is rising in line with the nation’s aging population.

The presence of Alzheimer’s disease doubles every five years between ages 65 and 95. A rarer form of the disease, known as young onset, can affect people as young as in their 30s. Alzheimer’s disease is among the top ten leading causes of death in the United States. Early detection is critical to maximize available medical treatments and support services.

I was given an Alzheimer’s Foundation of America fact sheet, “*Facts About Alzheimer’s Disease*,” and a publication called “*Memory Screenings*.” The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America will send 25 copies to be available at our next luncheon.

There is a website for the National Memory Screening Day which will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. If you can’t make it at this February, maybe you can get screened then. Mark it on your calendar.

Visit the website for more information:
www.nationalmemoryscreening.org



Kay

The Memory Test

Three old men are at the doctor for a memory test. The doctor says to the first old man, “What is three times three?” “274” was his reply.

The doctor says to the second man, “It’s your turn. What is three times three?” “Tuesday,” replied the second man.

The doctor says to the third man, “OK, Your turn. What’s three times three?” “Nine,” said the third man.

“That’s great,” said the doctor. “How did you get that answer?” “Simple,” said the third man. “I just subtracted 274 from Tuesday.”



MEETING MINUTES - Ruth Weigand, 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 is 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 COMMITTEE MEETING - November 8, 2012

- President **Ron Snowberger** called the meeting to order and announced the death of long-time member, **Les Bennett**.
- The PCRTA calendar was approved with the executive committee meetings at Kent Free Library and the membership luncheons at NEOMED.
- Judy Morgan** reported 7,000 member volunteer hours. Our goal is 10,000 hours.
- Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported a balance of \$3,473.97 and a scholarship balance of \$5,640. She summarized the investment accounts.
- Newsletter editor **Pat Gynn** said 234 newsletters were mailed and emailed at a cost of \$306.24.
- Jan Fencil** reported that **Helena Parry**, President; **Ria Mastromatteo**, Assistant Treasurer; and **Barb Cribbs**, Corresponding Secretary, would be nominated for 2-year terms.
- John and Sandy Kerstetter** presented several events planned by the social committee.
- Webmaster **Connie Evans** reported over 5,000 hits to the PCRTA website.

PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING - November 15, 2011

- The turkey luncheon at NEOMED was attended by 80 people.
- Pat Schubert** offered the meditation.
- Nancy Boomhower**, ORTA Eastern Area VP, installed newly elected officers and recognized retiring officers.
- Ron Snowberger** mentioned the fantastic food collection for the Center of Hope and reported 8,000 volunteer hours.
- Edie Scott** thanked proctors and urged members to sign up. She won the 50/50 drawing (\$52.50) and donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund in memory of **Les Bennett**.
- Speaker **Debra Easton** from KSU offered an interactive presentation about Combating Negativity in Today's Society.

She ended her talk by singing a humorous song about excuses from her students.



PCRTA Luncheon - December 13, 2012

- President **Ron Snowberger** made several announcements and reminders.
- Dave Gynn** thanked members for contacting legislators to support the pension legislation.
- Judy Morgan** congratulated members for volunteering over 10,000 hours.
- John Kerstetter** announced a December 16 band concert, February 11 bowling social, and an April tour of the KSU Museum.
- Thank you gifts were presented to outgoing president, **Ron Snowberger**.
- Evelyn Park** presented a meditation by **Helen Marshall**, "Songs of Christmas."
- Adele Fussner** won the 50/50 drawing.
- Entertainment was provided by **Forever Harmony**, a women's barbershop chorus.
- Georgia Darrah** read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.
- A humorous performance, *Christmas at Rock-Away Rest*, was presented by a cast of PCRTA members.

Christmas at Rock-Away-Rest Review by Helena Parry

We had a very humorous presentation by the newly formed "Drama Club of PCRTA." The performance was called "*Christmas at Rock Away Rest*". Everyone was laughing minute after minute due to the unusual acting out of this crew.

Ask **Dave Gynn** what he was flashing to the crew members. Ask **Dottie Emerick** why she kept trying to escape from the group or ask **Tom Emerick** if he could remember a joke.

Ask **Adele Fussner** why she was in a wheel chair and could not remember where she was. Ask **Darlene Fetterhoff** why she kept blowing a horn.

Ask **Sandy Kerstetter** and **Sue Dyett** how hard it is to be a nurse or ask **Pat Gynn** about being an activity director.

Ask **John Kerstetter** to lead us all in a chorus of "Oh, we're gold and gray, we ain't what we used to be." It was a real hoot. I can't wait to see what this new drama club will do next December 2013.



PCRTA Executive Committee Meeting - January 10, 2013

--**Helena Parry**, our new president, called the meeting to order.

--Minutes from previous meetings were approved.

--**Matt Leedom** who prints and mails our newsletter sent a note of thanks.

--**Darlene Fetterhoff** reported a treasury balance of \$3,737.09 and a scholarship fund balance of \$8,848.

--**Darlene** presented a proposed budget with concerns and observations. Much discussion followed focusing on expenses. Application for a 501(c)3 status has been filed and IRS should respond within six months. The treasurer's report and the budget were approved.

--**Georgia Darrah** said her survey resulted in members signing up to be greeters and doing the meditations. She outlined the speakers for the luncheon meetings.

--Trustee **Ron Snowberger** is on the ORTA publicity committee.

--**Helena** reported for **Dave Gynn** that the membership committee will meet in February. The theme for 2013 is Membership Matters.

--**Ron** reported for **Judith Morgan** that 92 members completed 10,678 volunteer hours of community service in 2012.

--A motion was approved that PCRTA members bring toilet tissue, paper towels, drinking cups, and liquid hand soap to the March meeting for the County Clothing Center.

--**Dee Smith** sent 25 cards for hospitalized members, for joy, and for deaths of family members.

--**Edith Scott** scheduled a proctor training at NEOMED and urged members to schedule dates to proctor.

--**Helena** reported for **Pat Gynn** requesting information for the newsletter be sent by February 1.

--**Mary Ann** and **Richard Brockett** reported that preparation for the 2014 pre-retirement meeting will begin this fall.

--**Kay Wise** will schedule **Dr. Stacey Schneider** about having blood pressure checks before the March luncheon.

--**Georgia Darrah** will publicize the March luncheon in the Record Courier.

--**Marleen Strebler** voiced a concern about late luncheon reservations.

--**Jim Montaquila** said the scholarship applications are due in early April.

--**John Kerstetter** reminded members there will be a guided tour of the KSU museum and lunch at Laziza's on April 11 at 10:00.

--**Connie Evans** suggested we review our mission on the website. The updated roster of members is available on the website to Executive Board members.



SENIOR GUEST PROGRAM AT KENT STATE

The ORTA Quarterly winter issue (page 11) urges seniors to check out attending college classes for free. Kent State University has a wonderful Senior Guest Program. Ohio residents age 60 and above can attend regular, on-campus classes on a tuition-free basis.



"Our senior guests are usually retired individuals who are taking courses for the love of learning," says **Deb Huntsman**, executive director of Kent State's Office of Continuing and Distance Education. "Many of them take art or language courses, but they are very diverse in their interests and they enroll in many courses across the university. They are a fascinating group from all walks of life."

Log onto <http://www.kent.edu/cde/senior/index.cfm> or search Kent State University Senior Guest to find a website with all the information you need to get started. You can scan the catalog, pick a course or two, review the requirements, and register. Go alone or take a friend. You may enjoy your "senior" class more now than you did 50 years ago—and now it is free.

RESULTS OF STRS MEMBER SURVEY



These are just a sample of findings from the annual membership surveys done by the Saperstein Associates and presented at the STRS board's January 2013 meeting. Interviews were done with 602 randomly selected participants (301 active members and 301 retirees). More than 90% of STRS Ohio members continue to consider their pension an excellent or good value. The results showed the following:

- 95% of the retiree households have at least one source of income in addition to STRS Ohio. On average, STRS Ohio provides 58% of retirees' income.
- Compared with last year, more retirees feel the pension system is financially sound, but fewer actives feel that way.
- Most members are satisfied with STRS system communications. More than half of retirees and two out of three active members have visited the STRS website.
- About half the active members surveyed indicated they plan to teach longer than they originally thought, and the most common reason cited for this was pension reform legislation.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: NEW REPRESENTATIVES FOR PORTAGE COUNTY

PORTAGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: **Kathleen Chandler (D)**, President; **Maureen Frederick (D)**, Vice President; **Tommy Jo Marsilio (R)** Commissioners Phone Number: 330-297-3600



Dan McCombs,
PCRTA
Legislative
Chair

STATE REPRESENTATIVES: To contact any representative or senator, call the Ohio Legislative Information Hotline at 1-800-282-0283 between 8:30 and 5:00 Monday through Friday.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES: Many of us have new representatives. Redistricting has changed the US House districts. See their contact information below.



Kathleen Clyde (D)
State Representative 75th District
(Atwater, Brady Lake, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin, Kent, Mogadore, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna, Rootstown, Streetsboro, Suffield, Sugar Bush)



Matt Lynch (R)
State Representative 76th District
(Aurora, Freedom, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Shalersville, Windham)



John Eklund (R)
State Senator 18th District
(Portage County plus parts of Lake and Geauga Counties)

REPRESENTATIVE: (Noun) A person chosen or appointed to act or speak for another or others, in particular.

These are *our* representatives. They don't know what we are thinking unless we let them know. Speak up and be heard.



Tim Ryan (D) 202-225-5261
Representative to Congress 13th District
(Atwater, Brady Lake, Brimfield A (1&2), Charlestown, Deerfield, Franklin, Freedom, Kent, Palmyra, Paris, Ravenna, Streetsboro, Sugar Bush, Windham)



David Joyce (R) 202-225-3876
Representative to Congress 14th District
(Aurora, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Shalersville)



Jim Renacci (R) 202-225-3876
Representative to Congress 16th District
(Brimfield A (3), Brimfield B-G, Edinburg, Mogadore, Randolph, Rootstown, Suffield)



Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D)
202-224-2315



Ohio Senator Rob Portman (R)
202-224-3353

2013 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____
 Retirement District & Year _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Phone _____
 Last 4 digits of Social Security Number _____
 (Requested by ORTA for a new member at initial joining.)
 Gift Membership from _____

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.
 Mail completed form and check to:



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

Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, March 21, 12 noon

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



Buffet Menu: Bourbon Roast Pork, Lasagna, two Sides, two Salads, Rolls/butter, Beverage, and Assorted Desserts.
The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the Day will be made available to take the place of a meat entrée.

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

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$12 for each luncheon reservation). Scholarship donation \$ _____

**Please indicate if any names listed are New Members or Guests. Write a V by those desiring a Vegetarian Entrée.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY MARCH 14. Mail your reservation and check made out to PCRTA to:
Marleen Strebler, 3109 St. Rt. 183, Atwater, OH 44201 330-947-2460 marleenstrebler@yahoo.com

BRING TO THE MEETING: Products for the County Clothing Center – see page 4.

LOOKING BACK by Norm Park, Archivist



After giving it a lot of thought and relying on my years in the classroom, I've decided to tackle the major obstacles standing in the way of a good solid education.

- *Higher Salaries *Teacher-Pupil Ratio
- *Higher Degrees Only *Lighter Teacher Load

These four startling revelations are big winners in anyone's textbook, but the more I thought about them doubts started creeping in. As to the higher salaries, is money the magic wand that attracts superior teachers and can also turn mediocre ones into whiz bangs?

Had we been paid a larger salary back in the beginning, I'm sure we'd have all been better teachers. Doesn't it stand to reason that a person making 100 grand is three times more efficient than the guy making 30?

My second "solution" is teacher-pupil ratio. How did we ever manage back in the 50s with 28-35 kids per class year after year. If kids are reasonably well behaved and have at least some desire to learn, good results will happen whether dealing with 15 or 39. A good teacher has plenty to share and dealing with 30 kids doesn't spread the good stuff too thinly.

Thirdly, some school systems have a policy of hiring no one below a master's degree. Ah, that magical bit of sheepskin that raises one a bit higher on the pedagogical scale. Yet I have trouble correlating a master's degree and higher with more efficient teaching. I harkened back to the old adage: Teachers are born, not made.

I think there's truth in it. I've known lots of highly-degreed women and men and I liked everyone, except they were bombs in the classroom. The one really solid advantage of acquiring an advanced degree in education is money. Isn't that why most folks go after them?

Next we have lighter teaching loads. I will agree that too much can be put on a teacher. It happened to me. I was in Summit County and had six classes a day with half an hour off for lunch. I was a perfect example of what they now call burn-out. In fact, one day after leaving school I went to a real estate office with the possibility of exploring new options.

So there's something to be said for a reasonable teaching load, but I really don't think that lowering the schedule to three or four classes a day will make Mr. Twinkle a more motivated or inspiring teacher.

I don't think these "solutions" are cure-alls for American education. If you do so believe, you should join the politicians dishing up pie-in-the-sky ideas. So often the pie withers and disappears onto a trash heap. Let's start with New Math, shall we?

Norm's note: These ramblings are strictly mine, formed many years ago. They may not coincide with today's thinking: NEA, OEA, ORTA, and PCRTA. You may put a disclaimer along with it if you feel the need. I'll take all the blame.



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 P=Portage
S or P +Year= Your annual membership
is paid through the year indicated
S= Life Member of ORTA—Ohio Retired
Teachers Association
P= Life Member of PCRTA—Portage
County Retired Teachers Assn.

Email us at: pcrta@aol.com

Check out our informative website

www.pcrta.net



Connie Evans,
Webmaster

PCRTA SOCIAL ACTIVITY: KSU Fashion Museum Guided Tour and Lunch Out

KSU FASHION MUSEUM GUIDED TOUR

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013

10:00 AM \$4.00 for Museum

For more information or to sign up,
call **John or Sandy Kerstetter** at 330-673-0129
or email them at jkerstet@kent.edu

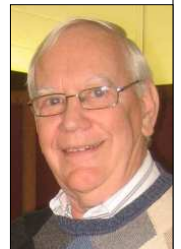


If there is interest, we can go
to lunch at Laziza's or
someplace else nearby.



ORTA TRUSTEE REPORT By Ron Snowberger

Portage County is one of only ten counties to have an ORTA trustee. We have had a trustee, based on our membership, since the trustee form of administration was adopted by ORTA. We must continue to increase membership to continue to have a trustee.



I am pleased to be serving the second year of my term. This year I will be on the legislative and public relations committees and will attend the Board of Directors meetings. ORTA President Linda Beaver has determined Membership will be our theme for the year.

I urge you to keep informed of ORTA activities through the website - ORTA.org. I commend our members for volunteering over 10,000 hours last year and urge you to repeat or improve that number this year.

Contact me if your need information or have ideas. I am here to serve you.

Ron

