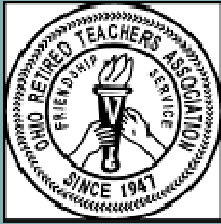


The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County
Retired Teachers Association

Desktop Volume 23 - Issue

April-June 2013



PCRTA—
A Chapter of Ohio Retired
Teachers Association

Inside This Issue:

*Volunteer Hours	2
*Mark Your Calendar	
*President's Corner	3
*Help the APL	
*Treasurer's Report	4
*Watch Our Membership Grow	
*Membership Q&A	5
*NEOMED & PCRTA—A Great Team	6
*PCRTA Board	
*10 Tips for Better Health	7
*Minutes	8
*Minutes	9
*Thoughts of the Day	
*Groan for the Day	
*Newsletter by Email	
*Ohio—a Right to Work State?	10
*Our Legislators	
*Lunch Reservation	11
*New Lunch Price	
*Membership Form	
*Mailing Info	12
*Looking Back	



DR. RANDY OVERBECK— TEACHER HEROES' STORIES

Dr. Randy Overbeck will be the featured speaker at the PCRTA luncheon meeting at noon on **Thursday, May 16**, in the Ralph Regula Conference Center at NEOMED in Rootstown. Dr. Overbeck is a veteran educator who has devoted more than three decades to the service of children as a teacher, college professor and administrator. He has worked with thousands of teachers, custodians, secretaries and administrators in schools, large and small, rural and suburban. He knows schools, and his writing has vividly captured the drama of the world of education.



Dr. Overbeck writes for *Heroic Teacher Press*, which began in 2009 as a publisher of adult fiction with a mission to change perceptions about teachers. The focus of the company is to call attention to the altruistic accomplishments of teachers, both the mundane, unselfish efforts undertaken everyday by teachers on behalf of children, as well as the life-altering, life-saving actions of educators that go largely unnoticed by society at large.



Leave No Child Behind, Dr. Overbeck's recent novel, tells the story of Dee Dee Sterber, who just wants to teach, to make a difference in the lives of her students. With missionary zeal, she returns to teach in her hometown determined to open her students' minds to the ideas of the world's greatest writers. Instead she finds out she has to act to save them from one of the world's greatest threats. Terrorists take over the school and use the students as leverage to have one of their Al Quaida brothers released from a nearby prison. They threaten that no child will be left alive if their demands are not met.

In addition to his fictional story, you will hear and see stories from Dr. Overbeck about real-life teachers who have been actual heroes. Teachers have been getting a lot of bad press lately as being overpaid and underworked. You will leave the luncheon being confirmed in our chosen profession and proud to have been an educator.

For twenty years, thousands of educators, parents and politicians have been educated, informed and entertained by Dr. Overbeck on such varied topics as politics and education, maximizing student achievement and teachers—the real American heroes. He is currently at work on his next novel, *Dangerous Lessons*, a mystery about a rogue drug that kills students in a middle school.

Dr. Overbeck will have copies of his thriller, *Leave No Child Behind*, so you can purchase an autographed copy. Don't miss this powerful multi-media presentation. Invite a friend to attend with you. This would be a wonderful time to invite a new retiree for a great shot of esteem as being a part of an honored profession.

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 _____



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:

April 15 – Scholarship Committee meets to choose scholarship recipients

May 9 – Executive Board Meeting

May 16 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED
Speaker: Dr. Randy Overbeck,
author of “No Child Left Behind,”
honoring brave teachers;
Collection for APL

June 1 – Newsletter Deadline

June 6 – GED Graduation, Maplewood

July 11 – Executive Board Meeting

July 18 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED
Program: Scholarship Recipients;
Collect school supplies

August 1 – Newsletter
 Deadline



September 12 – Executive
 Board Meeting

September 19 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED
Program: Jan Householder, “Giving
Dolls” program for hospitals ;
Collection of materials for making
dolls (material, yarn, etc)

October 1– Newsletter Deadline

November 14 – Executive Board Meeting

November 21 – Luncheon Meeting @ NEOMED
Program: Ron Snowberger, telling
about his educational trip to China;
Non-Perishable Food & Turkey \$
collection

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

The Executive Board meetings will be held at the **Kent Free Library, 312 W. Main Street, Kent** at 9:30 am.

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.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER — A MEMORABLE MEETING

When I called my brother, **Bob Winkler**, from NEOMED last month, his wife **Dolores** answered and told me they were just going out the door to get to the PCRTA luncheon. “Hold on a minute,” I quipped. “I need a flag for today’s program.”

She questioned her husband to see if he could bring his flag and stand. Telling her how far I had to walk to get to the main entrance to NEOMED, I suggested that perhaps he just bring the flag.

Well, about a half hour later, I walked **Bob** with his flag and stand; and he placed it to the right of the speaker’s stand. How very moving it was at the opening of our meeting to have our members and guests present who were veterans join with **Bob** and lead the Pledge of Allegiance for our PCRTA Luncheon.

Later, our featured speaker, **Jan Merrick**, emotionally moved our crowd with the details of how **Honor Flight Cleveland** offers an all-expense paid trip to Washington for WW II and Korean veterans. Our members donated over \$450 to this program on site that day, and many others took cards with the address as to where to send donations. At one time or another, our own **John Lilly, Norm Park, Art Fesemyer** and **Tom Campana** took the Honor Flight trip.

It was also the day for our Memorial Service to honor our deceased members of PCRTA/ORTA. **Dee Smith** and **Pat Mazzer** did a wonderful presentation with a poem and told something about PCRTA members who died in 2012 or 2013 thus far. They placed little tea light candles upon each table near the patriotic-colored pinwheel arrangements created by our Vice-President, **Georgia Darrah**; and they had several memory booklets printed about the deceased members.

This luncheon meeting of March 21st was my first as President of the PCRTA. It was most enjoyable to mingle in a crowd of 70 people all gathered in a common denominator, but we would like to have more of you join us at our next luncheon meetings.

It is important to support PCRTA/ORTA and help protect our benefits and pensions. **Bob Stein** from the STRS Board was present with us to reiterate the importance of the voices of retired teachers.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for our group please call or email me. Thanks.

330-673-0577 hmparry@att.net

Helena



Helena Parry,
PCRTA
President

NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: PORTAGE ANIMAL PROTECTIVE LEAGUE



Our community service project for the May meeting is to collect needed items for the **Portage Animal Protective League** at 8122 Infirmary Road, Ravenna. The Portage APL is a private, non-profit organization, which means all of their operating funds come from community donors like us. They receive no money from taxes or government agencies.

The Portage APL is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, which appreciates donations of cash, time and items to help the shelter operate. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Neither the shelter nor its programs would exist without the generous donations from the community. All funds received are used to pay for utilities, food and medicine, veterinary costs, vaccinations and to shelter and care for the animals.

Here are some items from the Shelter’s Wish List: *Purina ONE or Pedigree Dog or Puppy Food *Purina ONE Indoor or Sensitive Cat or Kitten Food *Milk Bone Biscuits (minis)
*Tidy Cat Non-clumping /Scoop Litter *Mr. Clean or Spic and Span Cleaners *Clorox Bleach
*Paper Towels *Heavy Duty Trash Bags *Tall Kitchen Trash Bags *Dog & Cat Toys
*Dog & Cat Treats *Dog Beds *Old Towels and Blankets *Rubber-backed Rugs (bathroom type) or *Cash Donations



Please open your hearts to this worthwhile agency.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff



Report for March 9, 2013 through April 3, 2013:

Beginning Checking Acct. Balance: \$ 13,938.63

Income: \$ 1,522.50
 Local dues 121.00
 State dues 330.00
 Scholarship 177.50
 Luncheon 924.00

Expenses: \$ 367.21
 ORTA dues 120.00
 Pat Mazzer—Memorial 129.06
 Darlene Fetterhoff-Postage & printing 8.15
 Dues overpayment refund 10.00
 Honor Flight Cleveland 100.00

Ending Balance: \$ 15,093.92

Scholarship Funds in Checking \$ 8,772.50

Checking Working Balance \$ 6,321.42



Membership Dues



Within the next week you will receive a reminder by email or by post card to pay your dues, if you still owe for 2013. The goal is to collect all 2013 dues by **June 15**. Thanks for taking care of your dues promptly.

Please call 330-673-8164, if you have any questions.

How to read your newsletter mailing label for dues payment information:

S=State (ORTA) P=Portage (PCRTA)

Life memberships are indicated by (life). Annual memberships are indicated by (ann). Example: S (life) P (ann) 2012 means you are a lifetime member of the state, and that your local dues are paid through 2012 and would be due at this time.

Darlene

WATCH OUR MEMBERSHIP GROW!

Check out our display board to see who retired last year and who has joined ORTA and PCRTA. “**Membership Matters**” when we are speaking to legislators who want to know the number of people our group actually represents.

Check out the Questions and Answers on the next page, talk to your school’s recent retirees and ask them to become members. Remember, we all need to work together to protect our pensions and healthcare. And numbers talk.



Personal contact is the very best way to encourage new members.

Fill up your school's chart with lots of smiley faces!

Curious people want to know.

Q - Who is eligible for PCRTA/ORTA membership?

A - ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP is open to any retired teacher or administrator or any spouse who becomes a benefit recipient of STRS and any person in Ohio interested in education and the issues of retirees.

Q - Can active teachers join PCRTA/ORTA?

A - Certainly. Active teachers should be concerned about retirement benefits because they may be retired longer than they taught.

Q - Can someone be an associate member?

A - Since any person interested in education and retirees can join, there is not a need for associate membership. Spouses and non-retiree friends are always welcome at meetings. Current associate memberships have been grandfathered.



Q - Can I join just Portage County and not ORTA?

A - Only dual membership in ORTA and PCRTA is available. It is very important that our county organization supports the state organization and requests services from the state.

Q - What if an older member cannot afford to belong?

A - A long-time member may be considered for honorary membership status, if found to be in need due to personal circumstances. A family member or PCRTA member can nominate someone for this status. Membership is subject to approval by the Executive Board.

Q - When is the membership year?

A - January to December. When a new member joins, the rest of that year is free. New members who join in June are paid through December of the next year. If the code on your newsletter label says (life) or (ann) 2013, your dues are up to date.

Q - How much are the annual membership dues?

A - \$40 a year (11 cents a day). \$30 goes to ORTA and PCRTA retains \$10 each year.

Q - What about life membership dues?

A - \$650 (ORTA \$500, PCRTA \$150). Do the math. Life membership will pay for about 16 years at the current rate. Life members are paid up when dues increase. They never have to send the annual dues, and they demonstrate a commitment to the organization.

Q - How many members do we have in Portage County?

A - January 2013 membership - 430 dual members. Portage is the 7th largest chapter in ORTA and will retain a trustee so long as we are among the ten largest chapters.

Q - How many potential members are there in Portage County?

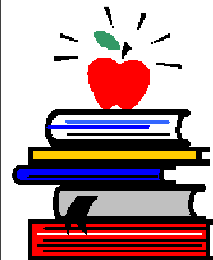
A - There are 2,126 STRS benefit recipients. How much can we grow? Do the math again. Anyone receiving benefits should be members. Just ask.

Q - I have retired from teaching but work at another job. I am too busy for organizations. I do not like meetings or luncheons. Why should I join?

A - We need you and you need us. We are the voice of retired teachers. We will be speaking up for your pension and health care benefits. Just like a teachers' association, there is strength in numbers whether the members are active or inactive.

Q - What has the organization done for retirees lately?

A - Plenty. For starters we worked with STRS and Ohio legislators to preserve and protect our defined pension benefits and adequate and affordable health care. In Washington we oppose mandatory Social Security coverage and work to repeal the unfair GEO/WEP programs.



Q - What does the local Portage County chapter do?

A - Again - plenty. Members reported over 10,000 hours of volunteering for non-profit organizations. We collect goods at every luncheon to support service organizations. We provide \$1,000 each to six future teachers from Portage County high schools. We have interesting speakers and programs. We provide leadership experiences for members. AND - we have fun. Lots and lots of fun.

Q - Where can I learn more about PCRTA and ORTA activities?

A - Go to pcrta.net or ORTA.org. Call any board member. Just ask.

Q - Is there any reason a retired teacher should not be a member of this fine organization?

A - None that I can think of.

Dave



NEOMED + PCRTA = A Great Team

Who knew that when PCRTA started the relationship with NEOMED (then NEOUCOM) to provide proctors for the tests administered by the school, that it would prove to be a benefit for both groups? How proud we are to be able to provide the funds to expand the number of scholarships awarded by PCRTA to high school graduates in Portage County going into the field of education.

In 2007, at the start of the project, 19 members signed on to be proctors. We met at NEOUCOM for orientation and to become familiar with the duties of a proctor.



That number gradually grew to between 40 and 44 proctors in 2012.

In 2008, the first full year, 61 tests were administered by 150 proctors and who totaled 462 hours of volunteerism.

Increased enrollment at the school meant more tests. In 2012, 105 tests were monitored by 300 proctors and totaling 900.5 testing hours. Wow! 900 hours!

Thank you, thank you, thank you to the people who are willing to donate their time to support such a worthy effort. Neither poor parking, cold weather, early hours or mud will stay these volunteers from their promised duties.

You can see that there is room for many more people to help with this project. Why, some even say it's fun!



Need more information or to sign up, call Edith Scott, 330-297-1812.

Editor's Note: Many, many thanks go out to Edith Scott for managing all the schedules, getting volunteers, calling everyone the day before their tests and proctoring herself! What a trouper she has been! And always a happy spirit and a smile on her face!

PCRTA

PCRTA OFFICERS

President: Helena Parry

Vice-President: Georgia Darrah

Recording Secretary: Ruth Weigand

Corresponding Secretary: Barb Cribbs

Treasurer: Darlene Fetterhoff

Assistant Treasurer: Ria Mastromatteo

Past 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!







10 TIPS FOR BETTER HEALTH




Kay Wise, Chair of Informative and Protective Services

The following information first appeared in the January-February, 2013, issue of *AARP Bulletin* and was written by Nissa Simon:


1. **Throw a party.** Social connections may help you live longer & better. Research has shown that people with a consistent, active social life are less likely to experience a decline in memory. Another study suggests that poor social ties could play a more important role in determining longevity than even smoking, lack of exercise or obesity.
2. **Adopt a pet.** Pets are good for your health. People who own pets have healthier hearts and make fewer visits to the doctor. A pet can lower your blood pressure. Pet owners are more physically fit and tend to be less lonely or fearful than those without pets. 
3. **Choose chocolate.** The sweet news about chocolate is that it has now become a darling of the heart-healthy-diet family. Dark chocolate is rich in flavonoids, natural antioxidants that help the body's cells resist damage that may contribute to cancer and other maladies. Flavonoids help lower blood pressure, improve blood flow to the brain and heart, raise "good" HDL-levels—all of which protect against heart attack and stroke. Limit it to an ounce a day—it still has calories.
4. **Savor your coffee.** If you're a hard-core coffee drinker, scientists have some good news for you. For older adults, coffee (regular or decaf) appears to lower the risk of dying from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and pneumonia. Other research concludes that caffeinated coffee may protect against skin cancer, liver damage, type 2 diabetes and Parkinson's. Three cups of coffee a day may protect against Alzheimer's disease or may delay its onset. Enjoy that cup of Joe—just go easy on the cream and sugar. 
5. **Raise a glass of wine or beer.** A glass of wine, either red or white, is heart-healthy. There's also good news for those who would rather have a beer. Beer is good for the heart. The key to drinking either wine or beer is moderation—one glass a day for women, two for men. More than that can cause serious problems. 

6. **Have sex.** The most damaging myth about older adults is that aging means saying good-bye to sex. The benefits? Sex causes the brain to release endorphins, the feel-good chemicals that act as painkillers and reduce anxiety. Sex also prompts the release of substances that bolster the immune system and lowers levels of depression in both men and women. 

7. **Listen to your favorite music.** We can hear music even before we're born, and we continue to respond to it all our lives. Music profoundly affects health. Emotions aroused by joyful music cause tissue in the inner lining of blood vessels to expand, increasing blood flow. Music brings on sound sleep, boosts mood and reduces anxiety. Neuroscientists hope to discover why music affects us, but for now, just play your favorites, sit back and enjoy.

8. **Take a nap.** A mid-afternoon nap can help improve mood, memory, alertness and learning—and it won't interfere with your nighttime zzz's. A 90-minute siesta clears the brain's short-term memory storage center making room for new information. Snoozing for 20 minutes may improve your alertness and performance without leaving you feeling groggy. 

9. **Go au naturel.** Spend some time outdoors in natural settings. Staying in touch with nature is essential for good health. As little as five minutes a day of walking in a city park, cycling, fishing, gardening, boating or other outdoor activity can boost your mood and sense of well-being.

10. **Get off your soapbox.** To save time, money and your health, stop using the high-octane soaps and household cleaners that contain the antibacterial agent *triclosan*. Antibacterial soaps are no more effective than plain-Jane soaps in ridding your hands of germs and preventing illness. Washing your hands in warm water with plain soap for 20 seconds will do the job. 

And finally, "At least once a week, buy yourself the present of spending time doing exactly what you want."

Kay

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 - March 14, 2013

–18 members attended the Executive Committee meeting held at the Kent Free Library.

–President **Helena Parry** called the meeting to order.

–**Darlene Fetterhoff** moved to accept the minutes taken by **Ruth Weigand**, seconded by **Kay Wise** and passed.

–Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** distributed copies of the dissolution statement for addition to the PCRTA By-laws from the July 12, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting, which was signed by PCRTA President **Ron Snowberger**, Vice-President **Georgia Darrah**, Secretary **Ruth Weigand**, Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff**, and Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs**.

–The Financial Committee (D Fetterhoff; R Snowberger; H Perry; D Gynn; J Montaquila) met on February 10 to discuss financial concerns due to declining operational funds. The likelihood that our income would not support our expenses in 2013 was realized.

–Following a discussion of the finances, **Dan McCombs** made the motion that the latest scholarship NEOMED check for \$1,875 be placed in the general operating fund, and at the same time internally transferring that amount from Stifel-Nicolaus Life Membership to Scholarship which will change the percentages of Life membership monies and Scholarship monies in those funds. It was seconded by **Connie Evans**, and passed.

–Treasurer’s Report: For period 1/29/13 to 3/08/13 Checking Account Balance \$14,158.63 (Scholarship total in Checking, \$8,625; Working total in Checking, \$5,533.63.

–The 2012 books will be given to **Alan Balog** for audit.

–President **Helena Parry** led a discussion on suggestions for increasing our spendable money, using the 50/50 drawing, a book sale each month, mini Chinese auctions, or passing a \$1 donation basket each month. Some felt we should keep the 50/50 for scholarship.



–VP **Georgia Darrah** said that **Jan Merrick** from Honor Flight Cleveland will be the luncheon speaker and will accept a \$100 donation to help the veterans.

Georgia said she has table decorations saved from last year, except for December, so there will be no additional cost.

–**Darlene Fetterhoff** suggested that we collect school supplies at the July luncheon instead of September, so they can be given out before school starts. **Judy Morgan**, Community Service chair, and the group agreed.

–**Pat Gynn** gave the membership report for **Dave**, showing the new display. She passed a jar of M&Ms, standing for **Membership Matters**, asking the committee members to take some. Then she said the M&Ms stood for how many new members they should bring to the next luncheon.

PCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING - March 21, 2013

–**Kay Wise** announced that members could pick up a “File for Life” packet provided by the fire department, as well as an Alzheimer’s informational brochure.

–President **Helena Parry** introduced STRS Board member, **Bob Stein**, and his wife **Sandy Anderson**.

–**Helena** invited all the veterans present to come forward to lead us in the pledge of allegiance.

–There were a number of pre-luncheon announcements. **Edith Scott** announced she was in need of proctors to sign up for April and May.

–Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** announced that our members need to stay vigilant with our legislators, and to find their contact numbers in the newsletter.

–Membership Chair **Dave Gynn** asked members to look at the display and invite a new retiree to the next meeting. There will be a prize drawing for those who bring a new prospective member to the May luncheon.

–**Judy Morgan** said that PCRTA members acquired over 10,000 volunteer hours last year and requested members to turn in their volunteer hours by mail, phone, or Email.

–Newsletter Editor **Pat Gynn** said that 82 members now get their newsletter by Email. She would be coming to each table to encourage people to sign up and to show on her Ipad how you could easily download the newsletter.

–Social Committee Chair **John Kerstetter** asked members to fill our a survey of suggestions for activities. He also reminded everyone about the April 11 Fashion Museum Tour and lunch at Laziza’s Restaurant.

–**Bob Stein**, STRS Board Member who is running to be on the Board again, talked about the changes in STRS this year. He said the year with no COLA was due to the delay in pension bill funding. Teachers who retire as of July, 2013 will not receive a COLA until five years after their retirement. (Continued on page 9.)

The present changes in healthcare are good until 2016. He said his reelection has been endorsed by OEA and OFT. **Jim McGreevy** is also up for reelection.

—**Bonnie Shimmel** won \$47 out of \$94 in the 50/50 drawing and donated part of her winnings to Honor Flight.

—**Norm Park** offered the meditation. He said he had spent a day in Washington with Honor Flight and said it was a day of remembrances.

—**Pat Mazzer** and **Dee Smith** presented a Memorial Service for those members who had passed away since our service last year. Memory books were on the table for members to follow along as they remarked on each deceased.

—**Karin Shipley** taught for 33 years; **Lois Stewart**, who lived 100 years, taught in Brimfield, Garrettsville, and Lordstown. She was interviewed for PCRTA’s 40th anniversary celebration; **Virginia Kichin** taught in Kent and Rootstown; **Les Bennett**, a veteran, taught music in Toledo and Tallmadge, was PCRTA Assistant Treasurer and song leader for many years; **Helen Holbrook**, one of the Rosie Riveters during WWII, taught second grade at James A. Garfield; **Dave Moulton**, was a vocational agriculture teacher at Maplewood Career Center as well as Waterloo wrestling coach and Rootstown football and wrestling coach; **Hazel S. Cunningham Hanning** was a Southeast elementary teacher; **M. Alice Foldessy**, was a Streetsboro elementary teacher; **Harvey Shoemaker**, was a history and English teacher; and **Betty Jean Pierson**, was a Kent Schools elementary teacher in Kent.

(Continued next column)

—**Janet Merrick** thanked members for their freewill donations which totaled \$450.

—**Helena Parry** thanked members for their donations of paper products to the County Clothing Center, and she also thanked **Judy** and **Charles Morgan** for delivering all the many bags of donations.

—Vice-President **Georgia Darrah** introduced the speaker, **Janet Merrick**, who is the Board Secretary for *Honor Flight Cleveland*. **John Lilley** and **Norm Park**, who had gone on Honor Flight also gave some remembrances and John shared some things he had gotten on the flight. Later, **Helena Parry**, announced that **Ken Cardinal** and **Tom Campana** had also made an Honor Flight.



THOUGHTS OF THE DAY:



*I have decided to be happy,
because it is good for my health.*
Voltaire

*Those who think they have no time for
exercise will sooner or later have to find
time for illnesses.* Edward Stanley

FROM NANCY BREZNAI TO JOANNE STIKES TO THE NEWSLETTER: YOUR GROAN FOR THE DAY

- How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- Venison for dinner again? Oh, deer.
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- Velcro—what a rip-off!
- Do not worry about old age; it does not last!



Thanks for sharing with us, ladies.

IF YOU CAN GET EMAIL... YOU CAN GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE!

We now have 82 people getting their newsletter by receiving an email and clicking on a link...how about you? Here’s how it works—>



When I finish the newsletter, I email it to Connie Evans, our Webmaster. —> Then, Connie posts it on our website at www.pcrta.net. —> When she tells me it is ready, I write one email and send it to everyone on the newsletter group list. In the email I put a link (a place you can click on to take you to another place). This link will take you right to the first page of the newsletter. —> You click on the link, open up the newsletter, and read it. It’s like having me bring it right to your desk!

Give it a try: Email me at: patgynn@aol.com, and I’ll send you a test email so you can try it.



Dan McCombs, PCRTA Legislative Chair

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: SHOULD OHIO BE A 'RIGHT TO WORK STATE'?

I want to alert you to the direction the legislature is taking on a very important issue for unions. It appears that the legislature is looking at a proposal to make Ohio a "Right to Work" state. This means that private unions in our state will lose their ability to mandate that employees in union shops or industries pay dues or have to belong to the union. This will have a significant impact on unions having the ability to help finance election campaigns like the other Political Action Committees do. Let your representatives know that you strongly oppose such legislation. We need to keep a level playing field for elections. At its March meeting the STRS Retirement Board approved the following revisions to the organization's mission, vision and guiding principals as follows:

- Guiding Principles:**
1. Make decisions that produce the greatest sustainable benefits for our members.
 2. Attract, develop and retain highly competent and motivated associates who have authority commensurate with their responsibilities.
 3. Continually improve through research, development, evaluation and risk management.
 4. Build an organizational culture that inspires a high level of professionalism and performance.
- Strategic Goals:**
1. Implement STRS Ohio pension legislation into business rules and systems.
 2. Develop options for the Health Care Fund that supports the STRS Ohio Health Care Program.
 3. Ensure a level of quality service to STRS Ohio members.
 4. Attract, develop and retain a high quality STRS Ohio workforce.
 5. Refine the STRS Ohio Defined Contribution and Combined Plans to maintain a quality retirement for members.
 6. Improve overall investment performance within acceptable risk parameters as set forth in the STRS Ohio Statement of Investment Objectives and Policy.

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 may have new representatives. Redistricting has changed the US House districts. See their contact information below.

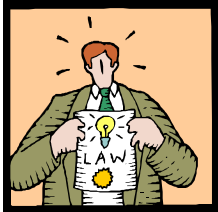
	<p>Kathleen Clyde (D) State Representative 75th District (Atwater, Brady Lake, Brimfield, Charlestown, Deerfield, Edinburg, Franklin, Kent, Mogadore, Palmyra, Paris, Randolph, Ravenna, Rootstown, Streetsboro, Suffield, Sugar Bush)</p>
	<p>Matt Lynch (R) State Representative 76th District (Aurora, Freedom, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Shalersville, Windham)</p>
	<p>John Eklund (R) State Senator 18th District (Portage County plus parts of Lake and Geauga Counties)</p>

	<p>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)</p>
	<p>David Joyce (R) 202-225-3876 Representative to Congress 14th District (Aurora, Garrettsville, Hiram, Mantua, Nelson, Shalersville)</p>
	<p>Jim Renacci (R) 202-225-3876 Representative to Congress 16th District (Brimfield A (3), Brimfield B-G, Edinburg, Mogadore, Randolph, Rootstown, Suffield)</p>

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.

	<p>Ohio Senator Sherrod Brown (D) 202-224-2315</p>
	<p>Ohio Senator Rob Portman (R) 202-224-3353</p>



Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, May 16, 12 noon

RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED

4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



Buffet Menu: Meatloaf, Chicken Marsala, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Fresh Fruit Compote, House Salad, Rolls, Beverage and Fruit Pies or Strawberry Shortcake Cake. 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 \$_____ (\$13 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 May 9. 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

Please notice the change in the cost of the luncheon—NEOMED has changed the price to \$13—still a good bargain for the wonderful meal we get.



BRING TO THE MEETING: Items for the APL—

See the list on Page 3.



2013 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement District & Year _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

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 _____

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

Make one check payable to **PCRTA**.

Mail completed form and check to:

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





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.

Email us: pcrta@aol.com

ADDRESS CODES

S=State (ORTA) P=Portage (PCRTA)
Life memberships are indicated by (life)
and annual memberships are indicated
by (ann).

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




Connie Evans,
Webmaster

Check out our informative website-----

LOOKING BACK by Norm Park, Archivist

We are all educated in so many different ways. And so much of what was once learned is of little value today.

There were two activities that enhanced and broadened my education. One was the fascination I had for postage stamps. I learned where the nations were located and had a sense of the different languages. I marveled at the bright colors and the fine engraving. A sense of art appreciation and a vague notion of engraving have stuck. 

Sears Roebuck always used stamps on their deliveries. The stamps were mostly from the 1930's and depicted the presidents. I found the colors, denominations and portraits quite fascinating.

Another bit of education I received which has lasted a lifetime was in the carrot patch at the age of 13. While pulling carrots, into my hand popped a shiny black arrowhead. I wish I still had it.

Then one day I walked across a dusty road to a field recently planted in corn. No sooner had I stepped onto the soil than I picked up a 2-inch point of pink flint. An hour later I returned home with two pockets heavy with

flint and artifacts. I was hooked! My education grew as I learned more about these items. Who made them? Why did they carry them long distances? Why did they choose to use this particular stone?



My second hobby is pretty much gone. The way things are moving today, I feel as much as possible should be salvaged before developments bury them forever. Had I not found these things, they would have been long gone. Now, I've used them as a teaching tool for years.

My "education" has been shared in countless classrooms, to scouts, preschools, rest homes, and even today I haul a display to some sort of gathering. So education comes in a variety of shapes and forms, and schools can't possibly cover all the bases.

These two activities, stamps and Ohio Indians, were good for me. I was educated in two areas which have pretty much fallen by the wayside. Young people today are caught up in their own electronic world.

But they, too, should be alert to changing times. The gadgets they hold in their hands today will be obsolete tomorrow. I guess we all have to go with the times. **Norm**

