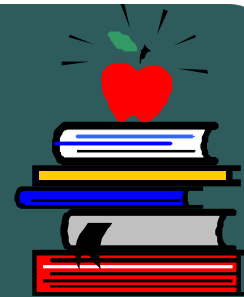


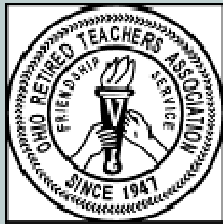
The Desktop

A Newsletter for the Portage County
Retired Teachers Association



Desktop Volume 23 - Issue 5

Nov - Dec 2013



A Chapter of Ohio Retired
Teachers Association

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OUR LAST TWO MEETINGS IN 2013



Our next luncheon meeting on **Thursday, November 21** at noon, will feature PCRTA's Past President and current ORTA Trustee, **Ron Snowberger**, as our speaker talking about his fantastic cultural experiences in China.

Ron has a short but beautiful power point presentation taking us from Beijing to the Great Wall; the Olympic Stadium; a jade factory; the Temple of Heaven; The Forbidden City; the 8000 terra-cotta soldiers; a tea village; a Chinese high school; and on to Shanghai. Thanks go to **Connie Evans** for helping Ron create the power point. Since this is a trip for educators, Ron will also relate his experiences teaching 3rd and 4th-graders at Rise, an English School. He says, "Zai-Jian."

Two of our members, **Saraj Sutaria** and **Ruth Weigand** have also gone on this trip. **Ron** expects the couple who lead the every-two-years-trip will be in attendance, too.

**We will vote for next year's officers—Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. The new officers will be installed and will start their 2-year terms in January.

**Our Community Service project for November is to collect nonperishable items for the Center of Hope in Ravenna. You may also donate money to purchase turkeys. Open your hearts and help some less fortunate families to have a happier Thanksgiving this year.



The December 19th Christmas luncheon, "A Musical Holiday For You," will feature Michelle and Richard Worthing (PCRTA Members) and their close friend, Sara Burky. Michelle is a retired instrumental teacher and an accomplished flute player. Sara, who taught music in both Coventry and Cuyahoga Falls, has been a member of the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus for 34 years. Michelle's husband Richard, who is now retired from being the Dean of Fine and Professional Arts at Kent State, will accompany Michelle and Sara on the piano. The trio enjoys performing well-known favorite songs for special events as well as being involved with plays for the Akron Children's Society. Don't miss this opportunity to sit back and enjoy the wonderful sounds of the Christmas holidays.

** Remember to bring hats, gloves, mittens, or scarves to be donated to the County Clothing Center to keep the little ones warm this winter.

**Both of these luncheons will be held at NEOMED at the Ralph Regula Conference Center.



Welcome to Retirement – Class of 2013!

WELCOME TO THE RETIREMENT CLASS OF 2013!

Wow! What a huge retirement class this year! The schools were cooperative about giving us the names of retirees this year, but not their addresses. PCRTA retirement packets have been sent to those retirees whose addresses we were able to get. New retirees are offered a first-time free luncheon so they can come and see what we are about. If you know someone on this list, give him or her a call and invite them to come to a luncheon or to join ORTA and PCRTA – who else is looking out for the benefits for STRS members? No one!



- AURORA CITY SCHOOLS** Russ Bennett, DeAnna McCarrell
- CRESTWOOD SCHOOLS** Natile Dean, Joseph Iacono, Jane Kennedy, John Vanags
- FIELD SCHOOLS** Renee Linnell, Barbara Mahoney-Kenney, Mary Powers, Diana Secaur
- GARFIELD SCHOOLS** Charles Klamer, Larry Kuhlman, Greg McDivitt, Mary Nelson, Patricia Scanalon, Carol Torda, Patricia Wetzel
- KENT CITY SCHOOLS** Jack Amrhein, Cynthia Baer, Carla Brumby, Nancy Bubenzer, Jolene Calhoun, Denise Craig, Cynthia DeMarco, Rebecca Dunlap, Chris Jones, Katrina Kelling, Jeff Kidwell, Mike McClure, Marsha Melton, Joe Paoloni, April Parks, Anita Romeo, Beth Schlupe, Barbara Vasbinder, Diann Vogliano, Susan Walter, Debra Walton, Sue Yanchar
- MAPLEWOOD CAREER CENTER** Patricia Abbuhl, Edward Anders, Frank Jacobson, Michael Page
- RAVENNA CITY SCHOOLS** Amy Adams, Kathy Adler, Karen Balog, Teresa Bartoszek, Meg Calby, Linda DeLisi, Carol Donovan, Madonna Engelmann, Janet Gill, Linda Hellekson, Jennie Kekic, Becky Kirby, Terry Miller, James Neely, Barbara Schneider, Annette Speidel, William Sullivan, Jeanne Vidoni
- ROOTSTOWN SCHOOLS** Ed Bose, Connie Knopick
- SOUTHEAST SCHOOLS** Lynn Batch, Roy Burd, Tom Ciccolleli, Patty DeVault, Ann Marie Kline, Robert Noall, Susan Pinkerton, Nancy Smith, Leonard Suzelis, Ray Sheets, Jeri Thompson
- STREETSBORO SCHOOLS** Marjorie Arida, Carol Dohmer, Steve Hatch, Marcia Hopkins, John Natko, Denese Newman
- WATERLOO SCHOOLS** Barbara Burley, Nick Hulea, Katherine Kasper, Mary Leonard, Bonnie Strout
- WINDHAM SCHOOLS** Kathleen Braden, Jean Cuhlman, Jane Hill, William Pozsgai, Cindy Rockney, Laurie Weirich
- KENT STATE UNIVERSITY** William Acar, Ella Anaya, David Allender, Charles Baker, Johnnie Baker, Carole Barbato, Ran Barniv, Johnett Benson, David Booth, Egerton Clark, Thomas Cole, Mark Colvin, Christina Cook, Laura Davis, David DeBolt, Nancy Docherty, Francis Dorsey, Yoram Eckstein, Irene Edge, Robert Faley, Janet Formichelli, Andrea Gorospe, Patriia Grutzmacher, Margaret Haas, Charles Harker, Barbara Hipsman-Springer, Mary Louise Holly, Janice Hutchinson, Wendy Kasten, Jerry Kalback, Gommlich Klaus, Michael Kreyche, Molly Linder, Owen Lovejoy, Michael Kalinski, Ralph Lindeman, Lawrence Marks, Michael Mayo, Michael Mikusa, Bruce Morrill, Gary Mote, Willy Munoz, Christine Naylor, Robert Opper, Gene Pendetono, Beverly Reed, Noel Reifel, Barbara Schloman, Mark Seeman, Martin Simonsen, George Stephens, Donna Thomas, Chun-Che Tsai, Jeffrey Wattles, Stephen Zapytowski

If you know of someone who should be on this list of 2013 retirees or if your school is having a picnic or an event for retirees and you would be willing to pass out some PCRTA brochures, please call our Membership Chair, **Dave Gynn** at 330-678-8423 or send him an email at davegynn9@aol.com.



Personal contact is the best way to invite new members. If you know any of these retirees, give them a call and invite them to come to our next luncheon.

Dave



HEY! YOO-HOO! IT'S TIME TO TURN IN YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2013

Did you know that in Ohio, one hour of volunteer time is valued over \$21 an hour!! Add up all the hours our members volunteer and it's phenomenal! We are a powerful economic force in the state!!! Every year ORTA presents a check to our legislators, letting them know about the power of the time volunteered by retired teachers all over the state.



One of the reasons we are able to volunteer is because of our defined benefit pensions. We don't have to take second jobs (from younger workers who also need jobs) or worry if our investments will do well (our STRS investors do that for us) and we're retired and bright with lots of skills to share.

If you didn't give your hours to **Judy** as we have gone through the year, take a few minutes to think about where you volunteer and estimate your hours. Check out your own worth at \$21 an hour! Then send your hours in to Judy to be tallied with the rest of our members. Estimate your Nov/Dec hours or get them turned in by January 5.

SEND YOUR HOURS...MAIL YOUR HOURS...PHONE YOUR HOURS...EMAIL YOUR HOURS



Judy Morgan

Grams4two@hotmail.com

265 Jade Boulevard

330-653-8174

Streetsboro, OH 44241

PLEEEEEEEZE! It's time! Do it today...don't wait.



"IM HERE FROM THE IRS...AND I'M HERE TO HELP YOU" – A TRUE STORY

Yeah, really? You're kidding. No kidding. The IRS was called on to help PCRTA. And they were very helpful!

The PCRTA Board decided to apply for a 501(c)3 designation from the Internal Revenue Service. With this designation, PCRTA would avoid costly taxes on our income and contributors to our scholarship fund could claim their donations on their Federal income tax returns. Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** and CPA **Alan Balog** spent many grueling hours completing the application. Have you ever seen an easy-to-use IRS application?



After a year of waiting for our application to be processed, we heard from a very thorough and understanding IRS agent. She reviewed our bylaws, minutes of several meetings, newsletters, and our website as a part of the approval process. She commended our commitment to community service and acknowledged our significant scholarship program. She cited our legislative/political activities.

The problem? An organization with a 501(c)3 designation cannot participate in legislative activities, especially grassroots lobbying. Informing our members of pending legislative and urging our elected officials to take action directed by our legislative committee are important activities. The 501(c)4 designation would permit legislative activities, but contributors could not deduct their donations to PCRTA.

The solution? The helpful IRS agent suggested PCRTA apply for a 501(c)4 designation which would make us a tax-exempt organization allowing us to participate in legislative activities. She suggested we also form a second organization with the sole purpose of managing our scholarship donations and awards and apply for a 501(c)3 designation for that organization. She guided Darlene and Alan through the exhausting process. They spent an enormous amount of time with the applications, and we are truly grateful.

The result? After the final approval, PCRTA will have a 501(c)4 designation which will allow us to be a tax exempt organization permitted to take part in political activities. We will have another organization, Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship, to operate the scholarship program; and contributors may claim their donations when they file Federal income taxes. The revisions in the PCRTA bylaws and the new set of bylaws will accomplish this new arrangement.



TREASURER'S REPORT by Darlene Fetterhoff

Treasurer's Report October 13, 2011:

Beginning Checking Acct. Balance: \$ 11,193.61

Expenses: \$ 1,340.60
 ORTA dues 360.00
 NEOMED luncheon 871.00
 D. Fetterhoff—Newsletter labels 9.60
 Giving Doll Speaker 100.00

Income: \$ 2,282.00
 Local Dues 170.00
 ORTA Dues 360.00
 Scholarship 147.00
 Luncheon 844.00
 50/50 81.00
 Train Trip 590.00

Ending Balance: \$ 12,135.01

Scholarship Funds in Checking \$ 5,578.58

Working Amount in Checking \$ 6,345.43

FINAL NOTES FROM YOUR TREASURER

Thanks to all of you who were so kind to me during the last 9.5 years that I have been treasurer. Sometimes we had to work out some kinks in the system and your patience was appreciated.

To those of you who wrote thank you notes in your membership payments recognizing my time and efforts, you were so thoughtful. A few words of kindness often kept me going.

Darlene



STRONG SUPPORT = STRONG BENEFITS

I would like to encourage you to pay your 2014 dues now. No need to wait until the 2014 calendar year begins. Check your address label for your status. If you receive your newsletter by email notice, please call me for the information you may need.

And now for the bad news, nearly twenty memberships will be canceled if they are not paid before December 31. Their last payments were in 2012. Consider what your professional organizations are doing to support your retirement benefits. We could very well lose a Trustee from Portage County, who represents us at ORTA and has involvement in legislative concerns in Columbus if our membership declines so drastically. In the past we only lost about four people a year.

To keep us strong we need everyone to help us. Please encourage a friend to join. Often I have heard, "I can't or don't want to come to meetings." It is nice to have our local function as a social unit, but it doesn't have to be that for everyone. Numbers behind our collective voice matter.

Strong support = strong benefits.



In Memoriam:

Phyllis Hecker, a life member of ORTA and PCRTA since 1993, passed on September 6, 2013. She taught in Akron City Schools, Cuyahoga City Schools, and Field Local Schools. Phyllis retired from Field after 30 years. We offer our sincere sympathies to her family and friends, many of whom are members of this organization.

It is healthy for an organization to review and update its bylaws occasionally. Bylaws are the rules which govern our organization. Our current bylaws are available on our website. The addition of an IRS designation to our organization has led to the need to revise our current bylaws (See related article on page 3).

The proposed revisions were discussed, debated, thoughtfully considered by the bylaws committee and presented to the Executive Board. Board members reviewed, discussed, and offered changes before approving the revisions. Now it is your turn as a PCRTA member. Review the proposed changes, and contact any Board member if you have questions or recommendations. Ron Snowberger, chair of the committee, can be reached at 330-678-3268 or ronsnogardens@gmail.com. The proposed revisions will be voted on by the members at our November 21 luncheon.

Suggested deletions are underlined - Suggested additions are in **bold**

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

A. The name of this **501(c)4** organization shall be Portage County Retired Teachers Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association and as PCRTA.

Change all references from the Association to PCRTA.

B. The purposes of this **501(c)4** organization shall be:

10. To provide recognize scholarships awarded by Portage County Retired Teachers Scholarship. to Portage County graduates planning careers in education.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS B. Duties of the Officers 1. The President shall:

a. Preside at all general meetings and at Executive Committee and **Executive Board** meetings and call meetings as needed.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS B. Duties of the Officers 3. The Recording Secretary shall:

a. Record and keep a permanent file of the minutes of all general meetings and of the Executive **Board** and Executive committee meetings.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS B. Duties of the Officers 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall:

a. Have charge of such correspondence communication as delegated by the President and/or the Executive Committee.
b. Keep on file all incoming communications and copies of all and outgoing communications.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS B. Duties of the Officers 5 The Treasurer shall:

c. **Oversee administration of PCRTA Scholarship funding.** (Renumber remainder of list)

g. Collect dues of all current members and forward members' state dues to the state treasurer ORTA office.



ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS B. Duties of the Officers 6. The Assistant Treasurer shall:

a. **Serve as the custodian of PCRTA Scholarship funding.** (Renumber remainder of list)

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the six (6) elected officers and, the Immediate Past President, **and the ORTA Trustee.**
The Executive Committee and the committee chairs shall be members of the Executive Board.

B. **The Executive Committee shall act for emergency or special needs.**

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

D. Duties of Committee Chairmen Chairpersons.

ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS

C. Special meetings may be called by the President or by **any three members** of the Executive Committee at any time such a meeting is deemed advisable.

ARTICLE IX: DUES

A. The **local chapter** dues shall be determined by a recommendation of the Executive Board and a majority vote in favor of the change by members present at any general meeting.

D. Local dues may be increased or decreased on recommendation of the Executive Committee and a majority vote in favor of the change at any regular meeting.

ARTICLE X: SCHOLARSHIP

Delete Article X. (Renumber remaining articles.)

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

A. These **501(c)4** bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any stated meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been distributed in writing to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

In event of dissolution of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association, the Executive committee **Board** shall, after paying and making provisions for the payment of all liabilities, distribute all the assets of PCRTA over to an organization dedicated to charitable and/or educational purposes and which has been that is recognized as a 501(c)3 **501(c)4** organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

PCRTA has a second set of bylaws - one that is in compliance with the IRS regulations - for our scholarship program (see page 3). These bylaws create another organization with the sole purpose of managing our scholarships. They will be approved by our Executive Board who will be the members of this new organization. The bylaws were developed by the bylaws committee and reviewed with changes by the Executive Board. They will be voted on at the November 14 Executive Board meeting. They are presented here for your information and input. Contact any Board member if you have questions or need additional information.

Proposed BYLAWS of the PORTAGE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP Approved (Insert date of approval)

Article I: NAME AND PURPOSE

A. The name of this organization shall be Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship, hereafter referred to as the PCRTA Scholarship, a 501(c)3 organization.

B. The purposes of the PCRTA Scholarship shall be:

1. To provide scholarships to Portage County graduating seniors who plan to become educators.
2. To consider grants and awards to Portage County educators.
3. To raise funds for the PCRTA Scholarship through requests from individuals, estates, corporations, and foundations



ARTICLE II: GOVERNANCE

The Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship shall be governed by its own officially adopted bylaws. These bylaws shall in no way conflict with the Bylaws of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association, a 501(c)4 organization.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

All members of the Executive Board of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association shall be members of this PCRTA Scholarship.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

A. The officers of the PCRTA Scholarship shall be the Executive Committee of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association, namely the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Past President and ORTA Trustee.

B. Duties of the Officers

1. The President shall preside at all meetings
2. The Vice President shall substitute for the president when necessary.
3. The Recording Secretary shall record and keep a permanent file of the minutes of all meetings.
4. The Corresponding Secretary shall have charge of communications.
5. The Treasurer shall oversee the administration of funds.
6. The Assistant Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds of the PCRTA Scholarship.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

A. Elections. Officers shall be elected at the Portage County Retired Teachers Association annual meeting in November.

B. Term of Office. All officers' terms shall be the same as the Portage County Retired Teachers Association officer terms.

C. Vacancies. All vacancies in office shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Portage County Retired Teachers Association Executive Committee or by the President with approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

A. Selection Committee. The PCRTA Scholarship Committee chair shall be the chair of the Selection Committee.

B. Finance Committee. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall comprise the Finance Committee.

ARTICLE VII: SCHOLARSHIPS

A. The Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship may award one or more scholarships to Portage County graduating seniors who plan to enter the field of education.

B. An applicant must be a resident of Portage County or a graduating senior from a school in Portage County.

C. The PCRTA Executive Board will approve the criteria for awarding scholarships based on recommendations from the Scholarship Committee.

D. Recipients and two chaperones each will be honored as our guests at a PCRTA luncheon meeting.

E. Fundraising projects may be sponsored.

F. A scholarship will be named for a donor, deceased member, corporation, or foundation when the donations equal at least the amount of a full scholarship.

G. A collective memorial scholarship may be named for deceased members when the donations are less than the amount of a full scholarship.

H. The Executive Board may approve additional types of scholarships such as college students, graduate studies, or grants.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

A. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present at any stated meeting, provided the proposed amendment has been distributed to all members at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which it is to be voted upon.

B. These bylaws may be amended to accommodate any changes in Portage County Retired Teachers Association bylaws which have a direct effect on these bylaws by a majority vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

In event of dissolution of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship, the Executive Committee shall, after paying and making provisions for the payment of all liabilities, distribute all the assets of the Portage County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship over to an organization dedicated to charitable and/or educational purposes and that is recognized as a 501(c)3 organization by the Internal Revenue Service.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER – by Helena Parry



Greetings my fellow retirees,
Recently I attended our District XI Presidents' Meeting in Girard. There are 9 county chapters in our District. We voted for a District Director who will be **Jean Slicker** from the Stark County RTA. Other business discussed was the need for a tax-exempt status, ways to let the public know who we are, and about directing people to STRS to answer their health care questions.

In addition to meeting the other Presidents, I also met Don **Ullmann**, who is currently our Eastern Area Vice-President and soon will become the President of ORTA, and his wife **Deloris**, the ORTA Webmaster. We all had a pleasant lunch together and time to chat. Don will be coming to the November meeting to install our new officers.

I am pleased to announce that **Pat Farley** and **Ehrman Armstrong** have stepped willingly into the position of taking reservations. We would like to sincerely thank **Marleen Strebler** for her service for the past couple of years to the organization in this capacity.



We owe **Darlene Fetterhoff** bunches of gratitude as well. She has been our PCRTA Treasurer for 9.5 years. She has worked tirelessly to have our new 501(c)3 Scholarship Program become a reality. We are fortunate in having **Dave Gynn** willing to take over as Treasurer. Thanks again so much, Darlene!

This is the last newsletter for 2013 and the last one that **Pat Gynn** will be editing. So we are looking for someone to volunteer for this position. Pat has done an outstanding job with the newsletter, and we owe her a big thank you. She says she will be willing to help mentor someone if they want. Judy Kirman will still handle the email newsletter distribution, and we will keep the same printing service that we have now. The officers and committee members write their own articles.

I would like to see the newsletter to still be sent out five times a year in February, April, June, August, and October, in order for people to get them the month before each luncheon to tell about the luncheon meeting. A new editor can choose any format for the newsletter. Contact **Pat Gynn** at 330-6787-8423 or at patgynn@aol.com or me, **Helena**, at 330-673-0577 or at hmparry@att.net for more information. Who's up for a challenge?



I hope to see many of you at the November and December luncheons. Good health and cheer to each and every one of you. Also, I would like to thank all of our Executive Board members for their diligent and dedicated service to our PCRTA, and hope that many of you will continue in your current positions for 2014.

Helena

ORTA TRUSTEE'S REPORT – RON SNOWBERGER

I will be attending the fall conference on October 23 and 24 at ORTA. Please contact me with any concerns or questions you would like addressed at the conference or any time: 330-678-32688, email: ronsnogardens@gmail.com.



Also, keep up to date by reading our local and state websites. As always, the Social Security coverage keeps emerging. Read up on HRC 19. Support for this bill has been submitted by ORTA. There are only 12 states where large numbers of public employees remain outside of the Social Security program. Information is available on the website at www.orta.org

REED MEMORIAL LIBRARY STAR PROGRAM

The STAR (Stay and Read) program is an after school reading club held at each of the Ravenna elementary schools. Students in grades 1-3 enjoy educational programming provided by the staff of Reed Memorial Library. There is no cost for the program and this fall nearly 240 students were involved.



The Friends of the Library raise funds through the book sales each year. They recently got 20 more iPads to add to the 30 tablets they already had for this program. Visit their next book sale to support this wonderful program.

Kay Wise

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 complete minutes on our website (www.pcrta.net).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - September 12, 2013

- President **Helena Parry** called the meeting to order.
- Recording Secretary **Ruth Weigand** corrected the July 11 meeting minutes to add scholarship contributions from friends, not family, of **Les Bennett** and **Alice Foldessy** to the bank account. Corrected minutes were approved.
- Vice President **Georgia Darrah** distributed the 2014 calendar of PCRTA events.
- Corresponding Secretary **Barb Cribbs** received additional past scholarship recipient responses.
- Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** reported a checking account balance of \$11,193.61 (\$5,642.58 scholarships and \$5,551.03 working amount). She reported \$14,842.43 in the First Merit account and \$45,156.16 (\$24,510.56 scholarship and \$20,645.40 life membership) in the Stifel Nicholas account.
- Darlene** reviewed the 501(c)3 application. She and **Alan Balog** will apply for a 501(c)4 designation for our organization and form a scholarship organization with a 501(c)3 designation.
- Georgia Darrah** said that **Jan Householder**, founder and executive director of the Giving Dolls program, will speak at the September 19 meeting. She announced that we would donate \$100 to the program. **Georgia** will distribute a survey at the November meeting.
- Pat Gynn** moved to accept the 2014 dates for the PCRTA calendar. Seconded by **Ron Snowberger**. Motion passed. Executive Committee meetings: January 9, March 8, July 10, September 11, November 13. Luncheon meetings: March 20, May 15, July 17, September 18, November 20, December 18.
- ORTA Trustee **Ron Snowberger** said he will be attending the ORTA fall meeting on October 24.

–President **Helena Parry** asked if anyone was interested in running as the ORTA District Director. She said the Scholastic Book Fair is looking for volunteers. Information is on our website. A member request for financial assistance was discussed; the member was referred to community resources.

–Legislative Chair **Dan McCombs** announced that the 12.5 percent rollback has been eliminated only on new tax levies. He said STRS has launched an updated, interactive website.

–Membership Chair **Dave Gynn** moved that ORTA give **Alan Balog** a complimentary ORTA/PCRTA membership in appreciation of his work with our treasurer. Seconded by **Connie Evans**. Motion passed. Each retiree has received a packet with a welcome letter and brochure. Twenty 2012 members did not renew. Dues for 2014 are due by the end of 2013.

–Memorial and Sunshine Chair **Dee Smith** reported that cards have been sent for illness, sympathy, 50th anniversary, congratulations and cheer.

–Proctor Scheduling Coordinator **Edith Scott** said there were five new proctors at the most recent orientation.

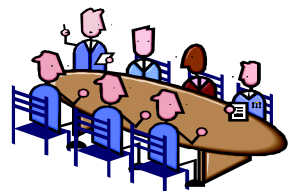
–Newsletter Editor **Pat Gynn** reported 320 newsletters were printed and 310 were mailed. The \$237.72 cost is lower than usual because the newsletter was only eight pages. There are 101 email newsletters sent by **Judy Kirman**. Pat said she would not continue as editor, but would help the new editor.

–Nominations Committee Chair **Jan Fencl** sent a report of nominees for officers and said **Pat Gynn** would arrange the installation at the November meeting.

–Pre-Retirement Chairs **Richard** and **Maryann Brockett** scheduled the workshop for April 17 at Channels 45/49. Preliminary letters will go to superintendents. An STRS representative, attorney **John Flynn**, and a financial planner will present a program much like last year.

–Public Relations Chair **Georgia Darrah** commended **Laura Nethkin** for a good article in the Record Courier about our scholarship luncheon.

–Scholarship Chair **Jim Montaquila** said the Scholarship Committee met to revise the current criteria. **Darlene Fetterhoff** moved that we accept the new criteria for submitting a PCRTA scholarship. Seconded by **Barb Cribbs**. Motion passed.



–Social Committee Chairs **John** and **Sandy Kerstetter** sent information to **Darlene Fetterhoff** to announce the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic RR Train Ride is on October 10 and will cost \$15.

–Webmaster **Connie Evans** said that the proposed bylaws are on the website.

–Bylaws Committee Chair **Ron Snowberger** presented proposed revisions to our bylaws. After much discussion and rewording the proposal, **Dan Mc Combs** moved we accept the proposed bylaws. Seconded by **Darlene Fetterhoff**. Motion passed. **Maryann Brockett** moved that the bylaws changes to printed in the next newsletter. Seconded by **Pat Gynn**. Motion passed.

LUNCHEON MEETING – September 19, 2013

–Before the meeting, a Power Point presentation from ORTA was scrolling on the screen for member information about the benefits of joining ORTA.

–**Kay Wise** announced the Ravenna Library’s book sale and said this weekend was the Balloon Affair’s 35th year.

–President **Helena** led the Pledge of Allegiance.

–Helena announced that **JoAnn Stikes** could not take the job as Reservation Chairman. **Pat Farley** and **Ehrman Armstrong** have volunteered to be Reservation co-chairs.

–**Darlene** announced for **John Kerstetter** that the information for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic RR Train Ride was on each table. The cost is \$15, not \$5. The tour will be narrated one way. There will be a car for handicapped persons. Plan to bring a pack lunch and get your reservations in to **Darlene** by September 24.

–There is a need for a Membership chairman, since **Dave Gynn** will become Treasurer in 2014.

–There is a need for a newsletter editor, since **Pat Gynn** is resigning at year’s end. **Judy Kirman** will continue E-mailing the newsletter.

–**Dave Gynn** said that there are 94 retirees in Portage County and addresses are needed for nearly half of them. He asked everyone to look at the names on the chart and let him know if anyone has addresses for them. He said that a packet with a free lunch ticket and a pamphlet with info about ORTA and PCRTA had been sent.

–**Judy Morgan**, Community Service Chair, asked members to record their hours on the form being passed around. PCRTA has 7,000 community service hours so far.

Dottie Emerick won the 50/50 drawing, winning \$38 of the \$76 collected.

–**Nancy Schubert** gave the meditation. She showed her 25-year old Amish doll that her 3-year old granddaughter decided on her own that it should have a face.

–**Helena Parry** had brought some of her own doll collection for centerpieces on the tables.

–The speaker, **Jan Householder**, explained how the Giving Dolls started with a doll she created for a little girl going through chemo. The dolls are not sold. They are given when someone requests one for a child who is in need of special comfort. Later they started making small blankets and a tote bag to go with the dolls. The first doll was made 2006; and number 15,000 was made in April, 2013.

–Guests at the luncheon were: **Susan Adair**, guest of **Sally Hershiser**; **Connie Liston**, guest of **Carol Penn**; **Pat Moore**, first time attendee with **Kathleen Latimer**; **Diana Kentner**, guest of **Mark Stahl**; and **Martha Ward**, guest of **Judy Morgan**.



A LOOK BACK AT PCRTA’S PAST

The Volume 1 Issue 1 of our newsletter was published in March, 1991. It was called the “Newsletter Without a Name” for a year before a contest winner named it *The Desk Top*. That year the membership committee won a brass bell from ORTA to recognize a significant increase in membership. Members were urged to log their volunteer hours and become politically active.

Twenty years ago **Pauline Weckerly** installed the following PCRTA officers: President, **Winona Vannoy**; First Vice President, **Virginia Goodell**; Second Vice President, **Rudy Bachna**; Recording Secretary, **Dan Moon**; Corresponding Secretary, **Edith Scott**; Treasurer, **Grace Manfrass**; Assistant Treasurer, **Les Bennett**; Past President, **Gene Newton**.

PCRTA had a great concern in 1993 over the proposed SB101 which would limit retirement benefits if a recipient is re-employed. The Legislative Committee urged members to support AARP’s momentum for health care reform as our best chance to improve coverage, control cost, and provide prescription drugs.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR ORTA-PCRTA MEMBERSHIP



When you see the school busses roll down the streets, it is a good reminder that you are retired and don't need to go to school today. Seeing the busses should also jog your memory - It is time to renew your membership in the professional organization that speaks up for retired teachers.

Although the school year starts in August, the membership year in PCRTA/ORTA begins in January. If you pay your dues annually, remit your 2014 dues by December. You can

send your payment of \$40 (\$30 ORTA and \$10 PCRTA) to our Treasurer **Darlene Fetterhoff** now or give it to her at the luncheon.

If you are a life member, thank you for your continuing support. If you joined only PCRTA as a life member, your ORTA annual dues of \$30 are due now.

Please check your membership status on the newsletter label. If you receive your newsletter via email, you can contact Darlene by phone (330-673-8164) or email (darfett@yahoo.com) to check your status.

Say Hello to Our Newest Members:

Diana Kentner retired from Ravenna Schools in 2011.

Nancy Bubenzer retired from Kent City Schools in 2013.



WELCOME

Know of a member 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

Already an ORTA and PCRTA member or a Life Member? Pass this form on to another retired teacher who isn't!



2014 PCRTA AND ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement District & Year _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

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

E-mail Address _____

Gift Membership from _____

2014 DUES PAYMENT	
PCRTA & ORTA ANNUAL DUES:	
(PCRTA \$10 + ORTA \$30) = \$40	_____
PCRTA Life Membership=	\$150 _____
ORTA Life Membership =	\$500 _____
Scholarship Fund Donation	_____
TOTAL	_____

Make one check payable to PCRTA.

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



Mail completed form and check to:

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

Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, NOVEMBER 21 12 noon
RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED
4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



Buffet Menu: Italian Baked Chicken Breast, Stuffed Shells, Red Skin Potatoes, Broccoli & Cauliflower, House Salad, Fresh Fruit Compote, Fruit Pie and Chocolate Pie. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the day will be made available.

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

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$13 for each luncheon reservation).

I have enclosed \$_____ for the scholarship fund.

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

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY November 15. Mail your reservation and check made to PCRTA to:
Pat Farley, 5625 State Road 5, Ravenna, OH 44266 330-297-0980 patkgtch2@aol.com



BRING TO THE MEETING: Non-perishable foods or \$ to buy turkeys for the Center of Hope

Luncheon Reservation for Thursday, DECEMBER 19 12 noon
RALPH REGULA CONFERENCE CENTER at NEOMED
4209 St. Rt. 44, Rootstown, OH 44272



Buffet Menu: Carved Ham, Beef Tips Stroganoff, Egg Noodles, Sweet Potatoes, Winter Vegetable Blend, House Salad, Fresh Fruit Compote, Devonshire Cheese Cake and Chocolate Mousse. The NEOMED Vegetarian Entrée of the Day will be made available.

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

Your name and phone number _____

I have enclosed \$_____ (\$13 for each luncheon reservation).

I have enclosed \$_____ for the scholarship fund.

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

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY December 13. Mail your reservation and check made to PCRTA to:
Pat Farley, 5625 State Road 5, Ravenna, OH 44266 330-297-0980 patkgtch2@aol.com

BRING TO THE MEETING: Hats, gloves, or mittens for the County Clothing Center





PCRTA—Portage
County Retired
Teachers Association

Address Service Requested

Darlene Fetterhoff, Treasurer
2417 Duck Pond Drive
Ravenna, OH 44266-8221
Please notify PCRTA of any address
changes.

ADDRESS CODES

S= State ORTA P=Portage PCRTA
Life memberships are indicated by
(life) and annual memberships are
indicated by (ann) plus the year.
Example: S(life) P(ann) 2013 means
that local dues are paid through 2013
and would be due at this time for 2014.

E-mail: PCRTA@aol.com

Visit our website



www.pcrta.net



Connie Evans,
Webmaster

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:



November 14—Board Meeting

November 21—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting Program:
Speaker: Ron Snowberger, “My China
Experience”; Officer Election & Installation

**December 13—NEOMED Luncheon Meeting— “A Musical
Holiday for You” by Michelle and Richard
Worthing and Sara Burkey**

SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE 2014 PCRTA PROGRAMS:

January 10 PCRTA Board Organizational Meeting

LUNCHEONS

March 20 September 18
May 15 November 20
July 17 December 18



Board Meetings are held one week before the Luncheons.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013 AND 2014

Three board positions are to be filled this year:
Vice-President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.
They will serve for two years: 2014 and 2015.

Jan Fencil, Nominations Chair, has asked three
people who have agreed to run for these offices.
Other members may be nominated from the floor.
Installation will occur following the election at the
November luncheon.

	Recording Secretary:	Treasurer:
Vice-President:		
Georgia Darrah	Ruth Weigand	Dave Gynn

