

THE DESKTOP

A Newsletter for the Portage County Retired Teachers' Association



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JULY LUNCHEON PROGRAM: 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS HONORED

Please join us July 16 at noon at the Ravenna Elks Club, 776 N. Freedom Street, Ravenna, Ohio, to meet our 2015 scholarship winners.
(Luncheon form is on page 6.) **BRING SCHOOL SUPPLIES.**



Elaine Britt

A graduate of Roosevelt High School, **Elaine Britt** participated in the Teaching Professions Career Tech Program. She will major in middle childhood education at Bowling Green State University, and she hopes to teach math and science. One of her mentor teachers described her as enthusiastic, helpful, a quick learner and a risk taker with a positive attitude. She earned the Rotary Student of the Month award twice and received a Reach Your Full Potential award.

Brooke Collins plans to major in early childhood education at Kent State University. She is a graduate of Waterloo High School, where her peers voted her "most respected" and "most likely to succeed." She has a long list of school activities, clubs and sports and is usually the first to volunteer for a project. A teacher praises her work ethic and states that she is focused, diligent, conscientious and respectful.



Brooke Collins

Graduating first in her class at Southeast High School, **Clarissa Santoro** will attend Ohio University to study early childhood education. She was a scholar athlete and class officer and participated in numerous school and community service projects. Her school counselor states that she is one of the most outstanding and caring students and praises her leadership in the student mentoring program. (No photo)



Erica Taylor

Erica Taylor has been in the Teaching Professions Career Tech Program at Roosevelt High School and served as the ambassador to other schools. She will major in inclusive early childhood education at Bowling Green State University and plans to receive a master's degree in school counseling. She has been involved in band and drama and impresses her teachers with her commitment.

Megan Wemyss, the daughter of a teacher, is a graduate of Field High School. She is continuing at Kent State University, where she has been in the post-secondary option program. She plans to major in early childhood education and will continue to work at a daycare center. Her teacher calls her academically gifted and cites her abilities to prioritize effectively and manage her time for academic success despite her busy schedule.



Megan Wemyss

THE BLISS FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

The Bliss Family Scholarship was created by Ken and Nancy Bliss to recognize students from Streetsboro or Ravenna schools. We are pleased to recognize two Streetsboro students this year.

Lillian James leaves a very impressive legacy due to her superior involvement in school, church, community and charitable activities, which are too numerous to mention in detail. She created her own "Challenge for Charity," with the support of her superintendent, for students and staff at Streetsboro High School. Lillian conducted this year-long activity, which not only raised the level of awareness for certain charities, but also increased student support for those charities. This unique program will continue in the future. A teacher praised Lillian as, "a kind, caring individual who reaches out to help many." Arizona State University will welcome her as a future educator or a non-profit organization manager.

Taylor Tuma, who ranked in the top five percent of her class, is recognized for her strong academic achievements, which resulted in many academic awards. She has also been recognized for her leadership, which included being class president both junior and senior years and Portage County Teen of the Month. An ambitious student, she participated in numerous sports, student council, Buckeye Girls' State, numerous community projects and charitable activities. Also, she was able to hold a part time job. A teacher's comment, "Taylor is more than a grade....a fantastic well-rounded individual." Taylor plans to attend Cleveland State University to become an occupational therapist, hoping to work with children.

PCRTA Scholarship, a 501(c) 3 organization, can accept contributions that will have a lasting influence on graduates while leaving a legacy to donors. Contact Darlene Fetterhoff, 330-673-8164 to discuss your situation.

PCRTA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The PCRTA Scholarship Committee is pictured left to right: Committee Chairperson, Jim Montaquila; Kay Wise; Lowell Myers; Jan Fencil; Darlene Fetterhoff; Dave Gynn.

PCRTA would like to thank this team for the work involved in screening the applicants and selecting the students who each become the winner of a \$1500 scholarship.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Judy Hendershot

Thank you to all of our members who continue your PCRTA and ORTA memberships. This is an important time for Ohio's retired educators. Our associations are leading advocates for pension and health care security for us, and we need your continued support. Do you know a retired teacher who has never been a member of PCRTA? We would like to contact anyone who might strengthen our numbers.

Jhender431@aol.com / 330-673-4576

This year's retiring teachers are being reminded that retirement, like a teaching career, brings with it responsibility. Most active teachers would not consider working without the protection of their teachers' association backing. ORTA is the only association that represents Ohio's retired teachers. Many of us will be retired longer than we have taught, so the need for professional representation is long term, and it begins now.

Dual memberships in PCRTA and ORTA are critical. Please consider both if you haven't already. ORTA is our voice in these issues which impact all of us:

*Our Health Care premiums are rising faster than the rate of inflation.

*Mandatory Social Security concerns will never go away.

*Our Defined Benefit Pension plan is at risk, and we are challenged to keep legislators informed of its value to retired educators. Remember, numbers count.



Judy Hendershot

Judy Morgan would like to remind all of you who volunteer to send your volunteer hours to her. Call Judy at 330-653-8174 or email her at Grams4two@hotmail.com If you are a member from out of state and volunteer, please report your volunteer hours as well.

THE JOY OF VOLUNTEERING by Kay Wise



Michelle Mann

Everyone knows a variety of ways to volunteer. Two of my favorites are the Mentor/Mentee program sponsored by OEA-R at Kent State and NEOMED Community Educators.

Kent was the first college in Ohio to have a mentor/mentee program. A retired teacher is matched with a junior or senior majoring in education. One might ask, "What do you do?" Michelle Mann and I went to the fashion museum; met for dinner and yogurt; had lunch and exchanged gifts at Christmas; and celebrated Valentine's Day. We attended the Virginia Hamilton Conference, and I attended awards night at KSU where Michelle earned two awards. Michelle came to my home and perused my children's book collection; we shared a picnic at the end of the year with other mentors and mentees. I was proud to go and watch Michelle's presentation of what she had learned in early child development. At Christmas time, another mentor took her mentee to the Winking Lizard where they donned costumes and waved at the children on the Polar express train as it flew by. The activities are limited only by the participants' imaginations. If you are a member of OEA-R and would be interested in a mentee, please contact me at 330-297-1110.



Jacklyn Hills

Kay Wise

Katerine Knudsen

As a community educator, I arranged three visits at my home at mutually agreed upon times with first-year Pharmacy students. There is an assignment for each visit. Visit one: the students have been given some basic questions just to get to know more about the educator. Visit two: the students will jointly interview the educator to take a medical history. They will obtain information about over-the-counter (OTC) drugs being taken. Visit three: the students will discuss the safety of using OTC medications. The students will be asking questions related to safety assessment. The educator is asked to

do a quick evaluation of the students after the three visits. I included a picture of the three of us in the evaluation, and NEOMED asked permission to put it on their web site. Patti Pfeifer is the coordinator for the Community Educator Programs. She may be reached at 330-325-6390. Both experiences were very rewarding.

Treasurers' Report

As of April 30, 20

Checking Balance \$5,340.38

Savings Balance \$305.0

Stifel Balance \$29,250.20

Scholarship Savings Balance \$6,194.58

Scholarship Checking Balance \$21,745.35

Scholarship Stifel Balance \$42,650.00

Income: \$2044.00

Expenses: \$2070.30



Dave Gynn



Darlene Fetterhoff



PCRTA members who attended the ORTA Spring Conference in Columbus on April 23, 2015. Front row: Helena Parry and Pat Gynn. Back row: Georgia Darah, Dan McCombs, Dave Gynn, Ron Snowberger and Connie Evans. The conference helped members gain more training in various aspects of chapter responsibilities. Break-out sessions were held in the afternoon after lunch.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE by Dan McCombs

The STRS Board has approved some Health Care Program changes for 2016. The Express Scripts deductible will increase from \$200 to \$225 for 2016. Also, premiums for health care will be up for approval in June. When we find out we will report to you. Just a reminder that the subsidy multiplier will fall the final 0.1% to be 2.1% per year of service. Therefore, a retiree with 30 or more years of service will receive a subsidy in 2016 of 63% of the total cost of the plan. All out-of-pocket deductions are going to increase. While the costs of medical insurance continue to rise, we are fortunate to continue to receive subsidies.

As an organization representing retired teachers, we need to expand our membership in order to continue our efforts to protect our pensions. It becomes more critical every year to protect what we have. The only real concern that many legislators have is how many people do we truly represent? I am pleased to note that the membership committee of our local PCRTA is working hard to recruit new retirees to our organization through a call-to-action through membership. Judy Hendershot needs help from all of us in obtaining new members, regardless of how long they have been retired. We all need to commit to a face-to-face meeting with our friends who don't belong so our organization will be able to deliver a positive message to the legislature.

As our old friend and patriot Ben Franklin said, "Gentlemen, we must all hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately." Have a good rest of the summer.



PCRTA MEMBERS HELP ROBINSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

RMH asked for a volunteer team from PCRTA to judge the scholarships given by Dr. Peter F.M. Chen, Delbert and Marcella Shilling and Dr. Steve and Patti Dean. These scholarships are awarded to children of RMH employees. The judging team for 2015 pictured at left is Helena Parry, Jim Montaquila, Ron Snowberger, Pat Gynn and Dave Gynn.

REMINDER OF OUR LOCATION FOR OUR JULY LUNCHEON

JULY 16, 2015, PCRTA Luncheon will be at the Ravenna Elks Club 776 N. Freedom St., Ravenna, Ohio - Cost is now \$14.

On-site cook, David Weidaw, and his staff will be preparing the luncheon of: pasta primavera, pulled pork, redskin potatoes, broccoli, dessert, water, coffee, tea and lemonade.

Number of buffet reservations _____

List names (for name tags). Please print and mark clearly** List your name and phone first.



I have enclosed \$ _____ (\$14.00 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 wanting a Vegetarian Entrée.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESERVATIONS by July 6, 2015. Mail your check made out to PCRTA and reservations to:

PAT FARLEY 5625 State Route 5, Ravenna, OH 44266 - 330-297-0980 patkgtch2@aol.com

BE SURE TO NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS AS THE NEW COOK WANTS THE NUMBER of people attending ten business days before our luncheon date.



PCRTA MAY LUNCHEON MEETING

Dave Gynn was the main speaker, pictured, left with Jim Cain, AMBA Representative; Carol Kinsey, District XI Director; and Helena Parry, President of PCRTA.

Dave was trained by AARP to become an official spokesperson for Fraud Watch Program. He gave many helpful hints about how to lessen our chances of becoming a fraud or theft victim. Some of the suggestions included: get a credit report, contact Do Not Call 1-888-382-1222, use safe passwords for your

internet accounts, change passwords frequently and do not carry them with you. Make copies of both the front and back of your credit cards, shred your documents and beware of persuasion tactics which include claims of unlimited wealth and scarcity. Shop on secure websites which begin https and cut down on junk mail by contacting Direct Marketing Association at dmachoice.org. Verify charities at charitywatch.org or charity navigator.org. Check out aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork. Stop pre-approved credit card applications at Optoutprescreen.com or call 888-5-OPT OUT. Never make a decision in a heightened emotional state, ask questions and read about a product before buying. Call Dave for more help about fraud watch.

PCRTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MAY 14, 2015

It was reported that CPA Alan Balog prepared an audit on May 1, 2015, of the financial records of the PCRTA Scholarship 501(c)3 and the 501(c)4 accounts. He stated that the financial condition of both accounts is accurately reflected, according to generally accepted auditing standards.

Jim Montaquila, Scholarship Chairperson, announced the five applicants out of eleven who were each selected to receive a \$1500. Scholarship.

Georgia Darrah, Vice President, requested more greeters to serve at the luncheons. She also announced that Jim Cain, AMBA District Manager, would give a brief overview of their services. Carol Kinsey, ORTA District XI District Manager, would give a brief report about the ORTA Executive Board Meeting.

Ron Snowberger, Trustee, announced that he, Helena and Dave Gynn would attend the ORTA Executive Board Meeting on May 19, 2015. He and other members wanted a change whereby some chapters via a drawing of all who returned a yearly report would not receive a \$75 reward for sending in a yearly report.

The ORTA 2015 Legislative Guidelines are posted on the ORTA website. These guidelines reflect the positions on state and federal issues related to retirees, pensions systems (STRS), charter schools and social security, including mandatory social security and GPO/WEP.

Dave Gynn moved to offer a free PCRTA membership for this year only to new retirees. The motion was seconded by Jan Fencil and passed.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

June 7 at 2:30 p.m.-- *Oklahoma* at Weathervane Theatre. Dinner at Papa Joe's

July 23-- Rubber Ducks vs. Altoona at the Rubber Ducks Stadium in Akron. Cost is \$8.

August 2-- *Hairspray* at Porthouse Theatre. Cost is \$35.

August 22--D-Day Reenactment at Conneaut. Dinner at a nearby winery.

Call John and Sandy Kerstetter at 330-673-0129 or more details.

IN MEMORY

Shirley A. Taylor passed away Sunday, April 12, 2015. Shirley earned dual certification in elementary and secondary education. She taught in Ravenna at Tappan, West Main, West Park and finally at Ravenna High School, where she taught English and Reading. She is survived by her sons Richard of Ravenna, and Bruce (Gail) of Georgia; daughter Sharon of PA.; many grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; her sister, Margaret; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Shirley was a life member of PCRTA/ORTA.

Pat Balazs of Ravenna passed away from complications of multiple myeloma on May 16, 2015. Pat graduated with honors from Kent State University. She taught kindergarten at Rootstown Elementary School for 30 years. Pat is survived by her husband, John; sons Stephen of Kent, Marty (Paula) of Tallmadge, Jeffery (Julie) of Cleveland Heights; and four grandchildren. There is an Open House in Celebration of Pat's life on July 2nd at Fred Fuller Park in the Roy Smith Shelter House from 2-4 p.m. Bring a dish to pass. Pat was a member of PCRTA/ORTA.

PCRTA- Portage
County Retired
Teachers Association
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Dave Gynn
4210 Lancaster Lane
Kent, Ohio 44240

Please notify PCRTA of any address change

Address Codes
S=State (ORTA) P=Portage(PCRTA)
Life memberships are indicated by (life)
and annual memberships are indicated by
(ann) + the year.
Example: S(life) P(ann) 2014 means that
local dues are paid through 2014 and
would be due at this time in 2015.



www.pcrta.net

Webmasters-Connie Evans and Karen Balog

*

2015 PCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Retirement
Year & District _____

Mailing
address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

PCRTA \$10.00- ORTA \$30.00 = \$40.00 _____

Scholarship donation _____

PCRTA Life Membership =\$150.00 _____

ORTA Life Membership =\$500.00 _____

Total of check _____

Make check payable to PCRTA. Complete the form and mail both to: **Dave Gynn 4210 Lancaster Ln., Kent, OH 44240** **PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2015 if you have not done so. WE NEED YOU - YOU NEED PCRTA/ORTA. Help us protect our pension and benefits.**

