



NEWS TO SHARE

Henry County Retired Teachers Association
ORTA Chapter Since 1968

HCRTA Meets on the Second Monday of March, May, July, September,
November, and December at Oberhaus Park, Napoleon, Ohio
Website, henrycountyrta.weebly.com



Volume 20 Issue 6

December 8, 2014

Mission Statement

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association continues its mission of encouraging scholarship, fostering volunteerism, providing an informed voice for retired teachers on issues relevant to their well-being, and presenting significant information in a congenial social setting.

Vision Statement

Within five years, HCRTA will move to a position among the top five chapters in Ohio, as it builds upon its legacy of encouraging scholarship, fostering volunteerism, promoting and protecting retiree interests, supporting advancement of public education in Ohio, developing a proactive membership.

As members of our organization learned last month, the HCRT Foundation recently received two annuities from the estate of Karen Brubaker, former teacher from Holgate and our first webmaster of the HCRTA website. Karen loved her children and she must have thought that she could someday help future teachers pursue their dreams of educating children.

Karen's gift legacy, totaling more than \$122,000, has allowed the Foundation Board the opportunity to do several things. First of all, the elected board was able to increase both the Sherman and Griffith

grants from \$500 to \$1,000. Secondly, the gift allowed the board to match the original King monies and to therefore open the King grant (and to increase the amount to \$1,000 also) to all Henry County students, not just Napoleon students. The third thing that the board was able to do was to establish a \$1,000 book grant in Karen's name, leaving a legacy for students for a very long time.

Thank you, Karen, for providing the Foundation the tools to enact such measures.

Gene Grime

The HCRT Foundation Board has met and is working on setting up an additional book grant offered to future teachers in Karen Brubaker's name. We are working on the specifications/parameters for this grant.

We would like our HCRTA members, and especially those who worked with Karen, to share insights of Karen's wishes for a book grant in her name.

Please let us know your thoughts about this book grant. We, the HCRT Foundation Board, will be meeting in January to design the specifics for the Karen Brubaker Book Grant. Thank you for your input. Please contact any of the HCRT Foundation Board members: Jerri Osborn, Becky Chamberlin, Gene Grime, Bev Curtis, Faith Hurst, Jan Schlade, Steve Seagrave, and Doris Ruby.

Jerri Osborn

Doris Ruby is currently at the Lutheran Home, Room 205. She would like to thank you all for the cards and caring concern she has received from HCRTA. She wishes everyone a Merry Christmas season.

Mary Lou Mengerink is currently at the Northcrest Golden Living Home. Cards, notes of cheer and visits are appreciated.

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
November 10, 2014**

The November meeting of the HCRTA was called to order by President Charlie Meyer with the ringing of the school bell. Guest speaker Dr. Randy Overbeck and new member Renee Weaver were welcomed. Larry Siclair then offered the table blessing and the meal of ham, sweet potatoes, green beans and cookie dessert was served.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. The secretary's report and treasurer's report were accepted as presented.

Committee reports were given:

Courtesy: Halloween cards and sympathy cards were sent. A get well card was sent to Doris Ruby, who is recovering from back surgery.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported on health insurance. The Medicare health care subsidy will be ending. The time for making choices/changes in health insurance for the new year is here. Conferences are available for information about health care and she encouraged members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend and ask questions.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave is the new webmaster and reported that there is a new address <http://henrycountyrta.weebly.com> .

Historian: Faith Hurst reported receiving articles for the scrapbook and encouraged members to continue to pass on items to her for the historical records.

Newsletter: Charlie Griffith has been the editor of the newsletter for many years and would like to pass the job on to a new person. Anyone interested should contact Charlie Griffith or President Meyer.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported that a member will be going off of the Foundation Board in 2015, so anyone interested in filling that position should contact her.

Old Business:

Gene Grime reported that the possible fundraiser with McDonald's is still on hold. Gene also reported that the dictionary project went well again this year. He thanked the volunteers who helped with the project and said that thank you notes from third graders across the county may be shared at a later meeting.

President Meyer reported that members were again generous in their support of the Together We Can Make a Difference Project in September, with

contributions of toilet paper/cash. The total year to date figure for contributions of items/cash was reported to be \$579.00. A survey was passed out for members to express their opinions as to whether we should continue with this project in the new year. A suggestion was made from the floor that perhaps the contributions could be split between two groups. This is a possibility that will be considered.

New Business:

Jerri Osborn and Gene Grime reported to the membership that the HCRTA Foundation received notice that Karen Brubaker had bequeathed to the Foundation in her will two annuities, one from Gleaner's valued at \$26,000 and the second from All State valued at \$96,000. She had requested that the funds be placed in the Griffith and Sherman book grant funds, and that the monies be available to any student from Henry County. The Foundation Board, after discussion and with input from Karen's family, also made a recommendation that some of the money be used to establish a book scholarship in Karen's name as well. It was recommended that the amounts of the Sherman and Griffith grants be raised from \$500 to \$1000, and that the new grant in Karen's name be established at \$1000. A motion was made by Charlene Freppel, seconded by Mary Ann Wade, that a scholarship be established in Karen Brubaker's name. Motion passed. Jerri asked for help from the membership in giving suggestions to Foundation Board members as they work to set up the parameters of the new grant.

Karen left many friends to cherish her memory---now she will leave a legacy to future teachers as well with her generous gifts.

In other new business, President Meyer is also seeking the opinion of the membership as to the caterer for 2015. A survey was distributed to be filled out by members as to whether to keep the present caterer, Expressions Catering, or to return to AKA Designs or Bavarian Catering, services we have used in the past, or look for another choice.

Dr. Randy Overbeck then spoke briefly in his capacity as ORTA Vice President, representing the western half of Ohio. He encouraged members to join ORTA as well as our local chapter, and passed out fliers listing the benefits of that membership. In his opinion, the most important work of ORTA is protection of our pension fund.

The fifty-fifty drawing was then held, with the lucky winner, Walt Behrman, \$25 richer!

After the adjournment of the business meeting, President Meyer again introduced Dr. Randy

Overbeck, who spoke to the group about his *Secretary's Report continued from page 2* association with Heroic Teacher Press and their corporate mission to raise the status of teachers in America. He presented inspirational stories of three outstanding teachers: Shannon Wright, a dedicated teacher who lost her life at Jonesboro; Jane Smith, an inner city middle school science teacher who donated a kidney to a student; and Jencie Fagan, a gym teacher who stopped a student gunman by putting herself between him and his targets.

Jencie Fagan was given the Above and Beyond Citizen Award for her bravery. Dr. Overbeck used these examples and a few others to make his point that teachers serve without fanfare, serve all of their students regardless of their circumstances and believe in the worth of every individual. Heroic Teacher Press works to uplift teachers and supports teachers by publishing books about teachers by teachers. Dr. Overbeck had copies of his own book available for the members to view.

Respectfully Submitted,



Your 2015 HCRTA Leadership Team

Charlotte Shrider, President,
cshrider1@roadrunner.com
Nancy Hoover, Vice President
nancyhoover229@hotmail.com
Bev Wittes, Secretary
bwittes@metalink.net
Anne Rausch, Ass't Secretary
tuffanneraus@yaho.com
Duane Ressler, Treasurer
dmdrder72@hotmail.com
Larry Vocke, Ass't Treasurer
ljvocke@gmail.com

HCRT FOUNDATION

Fund Raising

The Foundation solicits, receives, and invests gifts of money and property of every kind. Members are encouraged to promote memorial and honorary gifts to the Foundation. Gifts to the HCRT Foundation are tax deductible.

**The HCRT Foundation is a
501C3 organization.**

*I would like to help a future teacher by
donating to the Book Grant program
of the Henry County Retired Teachers
Foundation.*

My preference is:

- Lois Griffith Book Grant
- Margaret & Lucille Sherman Book Grant
- Roger King Book Grant
- Undesignated

Donation \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Gene Grime, HCRT Foundation Treasurer
419 - 599 - 2711
192 Old Creek Dr. Napoleon, Ohio 43545

DUES for ANNUAL PAYING MEMBERS

If you are an annual dues paying member for our local and/or ORTA, the 2015 annual dues can be paid at our December meeting. Make out your check to HCRTA for \$15 and ORTA for \$30.

I need separate checks. If you pay only local or ORTA dues, just one check. Our new assistant treasurer is Larry Vocke. He will take your checks at the meetings. If you wish to mail your checks in, mail them to: Duane Ressler, HCRTA Treasurer, 104 Via Veneto, Venice FL 34285



Where are they now? Becky Chamberlin

Jennifer E. Westhoven graduated from Liberty Center High School in 2004. In 2007 she decided to submit the Sherman Book Grant application and received the grant while a junior at the University of Findlay. Jennifer's objective was to obtain a job as an Intervention Specialist in a school district that realizes the importance of helping all students achieve their maximum potential.

After graduating from the University of Findlay in 2008 and becoming Mrs. Jennifer Fryman, she found that job at Hardin Northern High School. This is her 6th year of inclusion and special English Study Hall Support there. She has completed post graduate work in the four core subject areas and is the head girls track coach at H.N.H.S.

Jennifer really enjoys teaching at this small school (even smaller than Liberty Center) and finds some time to relax at home with a good book.

A Look Back by Faith Hurst - There were no December meetings 40, 30, and 20 years ago. See you in March 2015.

HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Duane Ressler, Treasurer, Report for December 2014

<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
11/2/2014	Reported balance			\$2,520.08
11/6/2014	Check #1226 City of Napoleon	Cost of Shelter House	(\$65.00)	\$2,455.08
11/12/2014	Check #1227 Expressions	Cost of Meals	(\$400.00)	\$2,055.08
11/12/2014	Deposit	Meals(\$480)	\$550.00	\$2,605.08
		50/50 (\$25)		
		Dues(\$45)		
11/14/2014	Check # 1223 TWCMD	Members Donation	(\$65.00)	\$2,540.08
11/20/2014	Deposit	Dues	\$15.00	\$2,555.08
11/30/2014	Deposit	Interest	\$0.06	\$2,555.14
11/30/2014	Checking Account	Ending Balance		\$2,555.14
11/30/2014	HENRY COUNTY BANK CD	Balance		\$1,252.29
11/30/2014	FIRST FEDERAL BANK CD	Balance		\$1,171.19
11/30/2014	Grand Total - All Accounts			\$4,978.62



Merry Christmas



Christmas Plants and Flowers

Plants and flowers always make the Christmas season more beautiful. Many of the holiday plants are tropical plants. Thus, care for them is like caring for houseplants rather than plants meant for the cold and snow. The following plants I'm listing should be treated as tender plants and should not be left where there are cold drafts.

Poinsettia is probably the most favorite flower and the one everyone recognizes. Originally, those for sale had bright red and green leaves. What most of us consider red as the color of the flower, the red flowers are actually leaves. Today, poinsettias are sold in a wide variety of colors and patterns. The natural colors range from white to pink to red with solid speckled leaves. Today, the sellers dye and paint them with many other colors and sometime even add sparkles.



Amaryllis is also a very popular holiday plant. It makes a good table centerpiece even though it is tall and graceful. It has trumpet like huge flowers. The red varieties are always sold at Christmas time. Did you know that they also now come from red to white to pink to orange and have petals that are solid, striped or speckled in all of these colors? This plant also sells well as an artificial plant.



Christmas Cactus is named because people believe it naturally blooms at Christmas time. For those who have had the Christmas cactus for many years know that it actually prefers to bloom closer to Thanksgiving. It really doesn't matter when it blooms because it has lush flowers that hang down like beautiful Christmas ornaments from the ends of the leaves of the plant.



Rosemary is an herb that many of us don't connect to Christmas. However, it is now being sold as a holiday plant. Some centuries ago, it was part of the Nativity story. How? Baby Jesus' clothes were dried on a rosemary bush. Also,



Christians then believed that smelling rosemary brought good luck. Now at some stores, you can find it as a Christmas plant pruned in the form of a Christmas tree. I admit that I've never seen one like that.

Holly is usually not sold as a live plant at Christmas time. The bright red berries of the female bushes against its dark green pointed leaves are a very popular decoration at Christmas. I was surprised to learn that although it's a traditional Christmas plant, its origins date back to the Druids who thought the plant represented everlasting life. Christians adopted the plant as a symbol of Jesus' promise of everlasting life.



Mistletoe is one of my favorites. When I read or hear that word, I quickly think of kisses. It is another holiday plant that is used as décor more than a live plant. This also dates back to the Druids. Unlike holly, however, the Christian church didn't adopt it as a tradition but frowned on it.



Despite that, the holiday plant became very popular and is commonly seen. Although it was originally a symbol of fertility, now it is a way people can get kisses from even strangers.

Christmas Tree is a BIG favorite of Christmas plants. Every list of Christmas plants includes it. The Christmas tree is both artificial and real. Common varieties include the Douglas fir, balsam fir, Fraser fir, Scotch pine, white pine, white spruce, Norway spruce, and blue spruce. For many years we had a live tree, but now it's artificial.



The pluses of an artificial tree are its cleanliness and money saved over the years.

Merry Christmas to you all!
Bonny Eddy



Note from the President....

I am writing this message a few hours before my son and grandsons arrive to celebrate Thanksgiving this evening. When you read this message,

Thanksgiving will have passed and our focus will be on Christmas. Even so, we should continue into the Christmas season with a thankful heart ...an extension of Thanksgiving. The following are just some of the many blessings I am thankful for.

T - Teachers - Those from St. Paul and Napoleon High School that had a major role in my education and in my career choice.

H - Health - Those Doctors and health professionals that pulled me through a difficult bypass surgery... I really shouldn't be here today!

A - Arnold Badenhop - My father - in - law who I looked up to and served as my "dad" after my father passed away.

N - Napoleon High School - Many fond memories of classmates, teachers, and activities that had a positive effect on my life.

K - Kindness - I have been blessed to have married a very kind soul mate, Joyce.

S - Success - I have been blessed to have been a successful teacher and coach, positively affecting the lives of many.

G - God - My belief in God has sustained me through difficult times.

I - Industrial Arts - Taking "shop" instead of a foreign language opened the door for my career as a teacher.

V- Volunteer - I intend to use the gifts God has given me to serve my fellow man until the end.

I - Invigorate - I attempt to be a positive individual and make those around me feel good about themselves ... life is too short to be negative.

N - Nature- Enjoy the beauty of nature and our surroundings...God didn't create junk.

G - Grateful - I am truly grateful to have been able to have served you as your president these past three years ... I have been blessed to know each of you and consider every one of you a friend. God Bless and Merry Christmas!

Thanks Charlie, for your dedicated service to HCRTA.



Welcome to our new HCRTA members who joined us in 2014.

Daniel Lee Baer, 1114 Michigan Ave., Napoleon, OH 43545, 419-592-0292, Cell: 419-575-4455
Birthdate, 5/17/55, Retirement : Napoleon Area Schools, 2014, email: dandtbaer@gmail.com

Kevin J. Milius, 205 Sycamore Lane, Napoleon, OH 43545, 419-592-5272, Cell: 419-966-3225
Birthdate: 3/02/55, Retirement: Napoleon Area Schools 2014, email: kimilius@roadrunner.com

Judy K. Swerline, 1353 Lynne Ave., Napoleon, OH 43545, 419-599-1155, Cell: 419-277-6298
Birthdate: 08/27/53, email: jks_millie@hotmail.com
Retirement: Northern Buckeye Education Council 2013

Renee Marie Weaver, 17526 County Road J, Napoleon, OH 43545, 419-762-5885, Cell: 419-906-7222, Birthdate: 6/15/56
email: mewrmw@embarqmail.com

Putting Pen To Paper Sharpens Kids & Adults

When was the last time you wrote something- a note to a friend, a proposal for work-by' hand? Today, typing has become a nearly ubiquitous method of communication, but research suggests that putting pen to paper not only helps young children learn how to read, but that it could also help adults become better writers and learn new concepts.

Handwriting has become a hot-button topic of late because the Common Core State Standards, established in 2010 to guide education curricula, require that schools teach it only in kindergarten and first grade- after that, the focus shifts to typing. Yet "in children, writing by hand helps improve letter recognition, which is the strongest predictor of reading success," explains Karin James, Ph.D., a psychologist at Indiana University. In a 2012 study, James and her colleagues found that when 5-year-olds were shown letters that they had practiced writing by hand, they used brain regions known to be involved in the mastery of reading skills; they did not use these areas after they typed or traced the letters. Although fine motor skills are important, James speculates that some of the benefits of writing by hand stem from its inherent messiness: No two A's or B's that children write look the same, and these variations may help them recognize letters' basic characteristics.

Studies have also found that adults write better and longer prose when they are faster at writing by hand. And we may process what we write by hand more deeply. A 2014 study reported that college students who took longhand notes answered conceptual questions about the material better than students who had typed their notes - meaning that, at least in some ways, students may be better off with a composition pad than a keyboard.

-Melinda Wenner Moyer

2014 HCRTA Meetings

December 8 @ 11:30 AM

Oberhaus Park
Expressions Catering Signature "Apple Wood"
Rubbed Pork Loin
Oven Roasted & Seasoned Potatoes
Steamed Broccoli
Rolls & Butter
Dessert

*Traditions and Customs of Christmas
Holidays Abroad*, LeeAnn Hall.

Meal Price \$ 10.00

From Becky's Recipe Book - Becky Schindler

Shrimp Spread

1(8-oz) cream cheese
1 T. mayo
1 T. Worchester sauce
1/2 T lemon juice
Dash garlic salt
Cocktail sauce
Sm. Salad shrimp or crabmeat
Crackers
Blend together the cream cheese, mayo, Worchester shire sauce, lemon juice, and garlic sauce. Spread mixture on a plate. For the 2nd layer spread cocktail sauce. Then for the third layer spread salad shrimp or crabmeat. Serve with crackers.

In Search of Art - Bonnie Eddy



From Becky's Recipe Book - Becky Schindler

Pineapple Punch

2(1-liter) 7 up
1/2 (1-liter) Vernors
1/2 gal. pineapple sherbet.
Put sherbet into bowl pour liquid over. Enjoy!

A Tidbit of Humor - Mary Lou Mengerink

A school bus full of kindergarten students was taking the Children home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting In the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian. The Children began discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster. No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child said "They use the dog," to find the fire hydrant."

Creative Puns For "Educated Minds" - Bonnie Eddy

1. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
2. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
3. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
4. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
5. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
6. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
7. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
8. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other, 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

Bonnie's Birthday List - Bonnie Eddy

December

5 Betsy Redd
8 Joe Aschemeier
13 Charlotte Shrider
13 Stephen Seagrave
19 Lynette Tieje
20 Bonnie Sasaki
20 Wayne Short
24 Ann Rausch
30 Charlie Griffith

January

3 Rita Grant
6 Jim Snider
8 Larry Sasaki
9 Lawrence Vocke
10 Karen Stein
10 Dora Titgemeyer
11 Max Fetterman
14 Mary Lou Mengerink
15 Janet Frederick
15 Sherley Mason
15 Charles Meyer
19 Barb Walker
23 Becky Schindler
24 Char Neuenschwander
26 Peg Behnfelt
28 Bonnie Eddy
29 Lu Alexander
31 Phyllis Hesterman

February

3 Carl Dettmer
6 Doris Ruby
7 Lucille Meyer
9 Doris Johnston
9 Nancy Hoover
12 Jan Hockman
15 Bev Curtis
15 Deb Feehan
15 Sandra Honemann
15 Sue Mohr
17 Donna Buehrer
18 Leann Hall
18 Heather Northcutt
20 Barbara Hoffman
23 Morten Anderson
23 Joyce Benedict
23 Faith Hurst
23 Tom Kern
26 Bob Synder
27 John Sharp
28 Don Bright
28 Dolores Zachrich

March

1 Bob Joseph
3 Joan Steed
3 Bev Warnimont
6 John Miller
10 Richard Baldwin
12 Karen Maassel
13 Walt Behrman
13 Deb Guelde
14 John Eddy
20 Bob Baker
22 Laryce Sasaki
23 Rick Utz
23 Shirley Williams
26 Karen Brubaker
30 Linda Wagner



Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer

Doris Ruby, 1036 S. Perry Street, Lutheran Home, Napoleon, Ohio 43545
Mary Lou Mengerink, Northcrest Golden Living Home.
Charles Hemsoth, Box 36, Malinta, OH 43535
Eleanor Engler, Box 36, 690 Fauver St. Ridgeville Corners, OH 43555
Earlene Dirr, % Karen Maassel, 14-620 Co. Rd. D, New Bavaria, Ohio 43548
Barb Hoffman, 15-926 Co. Rd. D-1, Holgate, Ohio 43527
Martha Alspaugh, 140 W. North St., McClure, Ohio 43534
Lucille Meyer, Box 74, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio 43555
Barbara Schnabele, 415 N. Oak Street, Deshler, Ohio 43512
Jackie Sautter, Fairlawn Haven, Room 114, East Lutz Road, Archbold, Ohio 43502
Martha Potter, BG Health Care Center, 850 W Poe Rd, Bowling Green, OH 43402
Dolores Zachrich, 1036 S. Perry Street, Lutheran Home, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

