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 21 Issue 1 March 9, 2015

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.

HCRT Foundation Update

Jerri Osborn, President, HCRT Foundation

The year 2014 brought changes to the book grants offered by HCRT Foundation, to which all HCRT members belong. In 2014 our former web master and active member Karen Brubaker left a bequest to the Foundation that has changed the amount of our book grants. Each of the existing grants, the Griffith, Sherman, and King grants, have been increased to \$1,000 each. We have also established a new grant, The Karen Brubaker Book Grant, in the amount of \$1,000.

The Foundation Board members have been working hard to design the parameters of this new grant with the help of other teachers who knew Karen and worked with her at Holgate Schools. Eligibility for this grant consists of being a graduate of a Henry County school and an education major who is at least a sophomore in college or a graduate student in education. Whereas, all those pursuing a degree in education will be considered, preference will be given to elementary education majors.

Eleanor Engler The Worthington 1201 River Ridge Court, Apt. 310, Gahanna, OH 43230 Email imeleanor@icloud.com



Bonnie Eddy took a bad fall on the ice Jan. 29th, when she didn't see the ice. Email jbenap225@embarqmail.com





We have lost a dear friend Margaret Jane Apel





Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report for December 8, 2014

The Henry County Retired Teacher's Association meeting for December was called

to order by President Charlie Meyer. Guests Fred Church and Vicky Hesterman were welcomed, as was LeAnn Hall, guest speaker for the day. President Meyer then called upon Larry Siclair to give the blessing and the meal for the day was served.

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

Under Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Marlene Jones and Sandy Honemann reported sending cards for the holiday seasons to members unable to attend. They both appreciate help from members to let them know when cards should be sent.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported the positive news that the funding level for our pension fund is close to the 30 years required by law, although some issues still exist. All were reminded to monitor their own accounts carefully. **Membership:** Janice Rettig reported she has several new names on the horizon and asked everyone to pass on any others to her that they may hear about.

Webmaster: Steve Seagrave reported the site is up and operational. He is looking for photos of past grant recipients to post, so if anyone has such a photo, please pass it on to him.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported the Foundation members have met and are continuing to formulate the details of the new grant to be established in Karen Brubaker's name. Any member with input should speak to any Foundation member. Terri Witt will be joining the Foundation board in March. Gene Grime added that he has been working with a financial advisor to invest the new funds and that now four \$1000 scholarships will be able to be offered. The Foundation hopes to have the new grant in Karen's name ready for the spring season in 2015.

Under Old business: President Meyer reported the results of the survey on the catering services, with Bavarian Catering being the first choice. After some discussion, a motion was made by Rosemary Pfau, seconded by Bill Lytle that Bavarian Catering be our caterers for the 2015 year. Motion passed.

President Meyer again reported to the members Charlie Griffith's desire to turn over newsletter duties to a new person. Anyone with a desire to serve the group in this capacity is asked to contact Charlie Griffith or President Meyer. President Meyer also added that the group would pay to Charlie Griffith the sum of \$250 for expenses involved with the production of the newsletter.

Meeting dates for 2015 were announced:

March 9 @ 11:30 am	September 14 @ 5:30 pm
May 11 @ 5:30 pm	November 9 @ 11:30 am
July 13 @ 5:30 pm	December 14 @ 11:30 am

Members continue to generously support Together We Can Make A Difference. To date, the amount is now \$685.50. Today's cash donations will go toward the purchase of diapers.

New Business:

President Meyer brought up discussion of a statement on the website, indicating that members must be from Henry County or have taught there during their careers. This is not what is stated in the Constitution and is not followed in fact. Bob Baker moved, Becky Schindler seconded, that this statement be removed from the site. Motion passed.

Janice Rettig is asking to be relieved of the duty of Membership Chair. She has faithfully fulfilled this duty for eight years, service well appreciated by the group. Anyone willing to serve in this position should contact President Meyer.

President Meyer commended Bonnie Eddy for providing table decorations at each meeting. The decorations always add a festive note to the meetings, and members showed their appreciation to Bonnie with a round of applause.

Charlie Griffith is asking members, especially the officers, to review the current Directory of the HCRTA, and to give input on any additions or changes they would like to suggest as he prepares to publish the 2015 edition. Discussion brought up the possibility of putting some of the information on the website or in the newsletter. Some members who do not receive the Directory expressed an interest in having one. A motion was made by Steve Seagrave, seconded by Karen Maassel, to offer the directory to members who do not receive one as part of their duties for the price of \$5.00. Motion passed.

Bob Baker then brought up the fact that the group owes much to Charlie Griffith for preparation of the newsletter and Directory, and Bob suggested adding \$50 to the expense money to be paid to Charlie as a thank you from the group. He made that into a motion, with a second from Rosemary Pfau. Motion passed.

Charlotte Shrider was the lucky winner of \$30.00 in the fifty/fifty drawing.

The business meeting was then adjourned with a motion by Steve Seagrave, seconded by Ruth Johnson.

The group then enjoyed hearing a presentation from LeAnn Hall about the Christmas customs of the Czech Republic and Japan. LeAnn spent time in both of these countries as a teacher of English and she shared what she learned firsthand about the customs of Christmas in each country during her stays. She shared slides and stories from her experiences, as well as a display of mementos from both countries. Some very interesting stories, with the customs of each country being much different from what we are used to in the United States!

Respectfully Submitted, Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary



HCRTA Executive Meeting February 4th, 2015

The HCRTA Executive Board met at 9:00 AM at Johnson's Country & Ice Cream Shoppe. After a delicious breakfast, the meeting was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider.

Duane Ressler, Treasurer, shared with the group the results of a recent audit, where everything was found to be in order by the committee. He also shared a report listing the current status of the checking account and the Certificates of Deposit held by the group. The current balance of all accounts was reported to be \$4,852.12.

President Charlotte reported that arrangements had been made to rent the Oberhaus Park facility for the 2015 meetings. She turned over invoices for the rental to the Treasurer for payment. Rental of the facility will be \$80.00 to \$85.00 for each meeting.

Steve Seagrave reported that the website for the group has been changed. The site was arranged with the help of the ORTA webmaster and is through weebly. There will be no fee involved for the website through this connection.

Under Old business:

Janice Rettig had requested to be replaced as Membership Chair. Nan Bretz volunteered to take over this position. The committee accepted her offer of service with gratitude.

The group will continue with the service project of supporting the *Together We Can Make A Difference* group. The items for donation for this year will be:

March - toothpaste, May: toilet paper July: cash donation (from trivia fee) September - dish soap November: razors - December: cash donation for diapers *cash donations may always be substituted for the items listed Meeting topics for the 2015 year were listed as follows: March - Rob Rettig will speak on being a Napoleon Board member and give an update on school construction; the HCRTA Foundation will also have a report at this meeting.

May - the winners of the Henry County Arts Council writing contest will read their winning "Bridging the Gap" essays

July - Fun night, potluck meal and trivia contest; the trivia contest will also be a fundraising event for the group, with more details to follow. Book Grant recipients and their families will also be invited to this meeting. During discussion, it was suggested that it would be nice for Webmaster Steve Seagrave to give a short demonstration of the site at a meeting, and it was decided to add this feature to the July meeting as well. September - Nature's Nursery presentation (rehabilitation for injured or abandoned animals)

November - Steve Kryder will present family letters for the Civil War

December - musical entertainment from an area barbershop quartet or the Napoleon Show Choir

Catering for the new year was discussed. We will be returning to Marc Matheny from Wauseon. The meal will be \$10, with the addition of an extra \$1 to help offset the cost of the building, bringing the total for each meal to \$11.00. The menus will not be presented for the entire year as in the past, but will be posted prior to each meeting at the time for reservations.

President Charlotte asked if anyone would be willing to attend an ORTA Conference in Columbus on April 23, 2015, as she will not be able to attend due to a prior commitment. She will send out an email asking for anyone interested to contact her. After discussion, a motion was made by Jerri Osborn, seconded by Becky Schindler, that the group pay the \$30 registration fee for anyone who would be willing to attend on behalf of the chapter.

Discussion then centered upon finances for the chapter. The idea of raising local dues was explored. The feeling of the group was that since many of the members have already paid life memberships, this would not raise that much additional revenue, so the idea was tabled for the time being. It was mentioned that in the past volunteer collections have been taken at meetings to help offset expenses if need be, so that might continue to be an option.

Talk moved on to other expenses, especially those involved with the printing costs of the directory and the printing and mailing costs of the newsletter. Many ideas were brought forward to help bring down these expenses, while at the same time striving to maintain the quality and communication benefits of both of these publications. Charlie Griffith, who has been responsible for publishing both the newsletter and directory, received additional funds for his expenses this year, but it still did not cover over half of the costs involved. There was general agreement that one individual should not have to shoulder this burden for the group, so many cost saving ideas were suggested. After further discussion, it was decided to bring the matter before the entire group at the March meeting, to solicit input and cost saving ideas from the membership as a whole.

With no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned.

Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary

Duane Ressler Treasurer

Report for March 2015

Date	Transactions Checking Acct.	Description	Amount	Balance
Nov. 30	0	Balance brought forward		\$2,620.14
Dec. 4	Ck. #1228	City of Napoleon	(\$65.00)	\$2,555.14
Dec. 8	Ck #1229	Expressions Meals – caterer	(\$440.00)	\$2,115.14
Dec. 10	Ck #1230	Charles Griffith printing expenses	(\$300.00)	\$1,815.14
Dec. 10		deposit Meals / \$520	\$626.00	\$2,441.14
		membership dues \$75		
		50-50 / \$31		
Dec. 15	5 Ck # 1231	Becky Schindler postage	(\$39.20)	\$2,401.94
Dec. 18	8	deposit membership dues Bob Baker	\$15.00	\$2,416.94
Jan. 13	3	deposit membership dues	\$15.00	\$2,431.94
Feb. 1		deposit interest paid	\$ 0.06	\$2,432.00
Feb. 7 deposit meal payment Eddy		\$20.00	\$2,452.00	
Feb. 7		deposit meal payment	\$20.00	\$2,472.00
Feb. 27	Yeb. 27deposit meal payment\$10.00		\$10.00	\$2,482.00
Feb. 27	7	Ending Balance Checking		\$2,482.00
Nov. 30	0	HENRY COUNTY BANK CD balance		\$1,252.29
Jan. 4		interest paid	3.07	
Feb.		2015 current balance		\$1,255.36
Feb.	Feb. 2015 FIRST FEDERAL BANK CD current balance			\$1,171.19
GRAND TOTAL-ALL ACCOUNTS				\$4,908.55

An audit was completed by Bob Joseph on January 29, 2015.

The checkbook balanced with the bank statements.

All records were in accordance with good accounting practices.

Your Editor and our *News to Share* need your help! We need a picture taker, who will capture the moments at our HCRTA meetings.

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 tuffannerausch@yahoo.com Duane Ressler, Treasurer dmrder72@hotmail.com Larry Vocke, Ass't Treasurer ljvocke@gmail.com

HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION						
2014 Year End Report on Fund Totals						
	Checking	CD's Approximate Values	Money Market	Annuity Guaranteed Principal	Total	
SHERMAN FUNDS						
December 31,2014	\$720.51	\$14,645.00	\$0.00	\$13,127.00	\$28,492.51	
GRIFFITH FUNDS						
December 31,2014	\$383.56	\$15,395.00	\$0.00	\$13,127.00	\$28,905.56	
KING FUNDS						
December 31,2014	\$444.46	\$3,473.00	\$0.00	\$9,223.00	\$13,140.46	
BRUBAKER FUNDS						
December 31,2014	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,024.03	\$82,415.00	\$87,439.03	
	\$1,548.53	\$33,513.00	\$5,024.03	\$117,892.00	\$157,977.56	

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

Gene Grime, HCRT Foundation Treasurer 419 - 599 - 2711, 92 Old Creek Dr. Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Don't be a Victim of Identity Theft! - Larry Vocke

Having something stolen from isn't always physical larceny. Almost every day you hear stories about identity theft. While the entire nation is transitioning to a complete digital age, criminals work hard at staying a couple steps ahead of the law.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, the fastest growing segment of the population that file identify theft complaints are people that are 60 and older. There are a lot of compelling reasons why that demographic is a target-rich environment- seniors are more likely have loans paid off and carry little credit card debt. Thieves see seniors as low risk to crediting agencies and a criminal applying for a credit card or loan in using an older victim's info is more likely approved. Seniors also aren't likely to be monitoring their credit history.

Michelle Lerner, of the "My DailyFinance" blog lists 7 tips to prevent identity theft.

- Don't carry your Medicare card in your wallet. Make a copy and block out the last four digits so nobody can get your Social Security number. In fact, make sure your social security number is never in your wallet in case it is lost or stolen.
- Be wary of requests for information by phone. Phone scams are prevalent. Know who you are talking to if they need that info.
- Secure your information. Buy a home security box and hide it well.
- Shred it. If you don't have a shredder, buy one. Your garbage can be a treasure trove of info.
- Protect your computer. Good passwords and buy good anti-viral & spyware programs.
- Be vigilant when traveling. Using public Wi-Fi spots is asking for trouble if you have personal info on your laptop or phone. Invest in a portable router to create your own Wi-Fi.
- Check your credit regularly. There are ample free websites where you can check your credit.

Identity theft only has to happen once to suffer nightmare consequences. Be alert, be suspicious, and protect your personal info at all times.

Welcome to a New Year - Charlotte

Welcome to a new year of fellowship, food, facts and fun with your fellow retired teachers! If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, how about giving it a try? Meeting topics are listed on our website at <u>www.henrycountyrta.weebly.com</u>. Check it out!

I am looking forward to serving as your President this year. Thanks to Charlie Meyer and the executive board for helping me get started on my duties. I am fairly new to Retired Teachers, having just retired in 2013. I taught a total of 40 years. 2 in Leipsic and 38 in Northeastern Local (Tinora.) Feel free to let me know if there are things I forget!

It was great to see our Henry County chapter featured in two articles in the ORTA Quarterly. They ran articles about our book grant recipients and Larry Sasaki being inducted into the Napoleon High School Hall of Fame. Also in the Winter issue was a registration form for the Spring ORTA conference on April 23 in Columbus. I will be in Memphis and cannot attend. The executive board voted to pay the \$30 registration fee if someone can attend in my place. Let me know if you could do this for our chapter. I want to thank Nan Bretz who has agreed to take over the membership duties that Jan Rettig has so capably done in the past. Let Nan know if you have a potential member you would like her to contact.

Here's to a great year!

Charlotte



SPRING IS ALMOST HERE! - Bonnie Eddy

Thinking about spring makes me very happy. I don't like winter's cold weather that includes snow and ice. I'm still recovering from a January 29th fall on ice on the step to our front door.

Do you know what our plant hardiness zone is? It was zone 5 for all the years I remember. Now it is zone 6, the first update since 1990. A newspaper reporter says 'the new map reflects the warming in our state and much of the country.' We belong to the Arbor Day Foundation and it already made the change six years ago. The new map can be found at planthardiess.ars.usda.gov. Disagreement about our zone is in the catalogs I get.

A 'Bonnie' activity while I'm waiting for the good spring weather is going through the seed and plant catalogs, searching the internet, and making notes for selection. There are always many selections of new plants.



One of the catalogs comes from Gurney's, located in southwest Ohio. They say they don't pamper their

plants and use very few sprays. Many plants offered come by way of seed tapes, seeds or plants. I'm tempted by a new fruit named Early Blue and Sunrise Honeyberries that they say are even better than blueberries. They also specify plants that would grow in containers. People can order online at <u>Gurneys.com</u>. The garden world continues to change with technology.

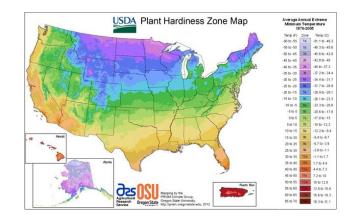
Because I'm a member of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs (OAGC), another catalog I get is from Bluestone Perennials, bluestoneperennials.com. It's located in Madison, OH. It tells us that they have 'plantable pots that virtually eliminate transplant shock! ' This year's beautiful cover looks like a bouquet of clematis, queen of the climbers. I only have two clematis now, but I have an empty space where another one could grow. They offer pre-planned gardens that are designed to bloom throughout the entire season – Butterfly Garden, Cutting Garden, Shade Garden, and Son of Starter Garden.

Another catalog comes from Brent and Becky's Bulbs – brentandbeckysbulbs.com. I like it because it has so many bulbs that grow beautiful

flowers that I have or don't have. It also specifies shade to full sun requirements. The listed bulbs include 40 crocus, 209 tulips, 235 daffodils, hyacinths, colchicum, alliums, amarcrinum, anemone, cyclamen, 24 hyacinths, 28 iris, and indoor bulbs such as amaryllis.

Let me end with a poem I wrote several years ago titled Flower Power.

flower power unleashes love songs with lyrics the gardener plants each springtime season unleashing pots of rainbow colors and blankets of greenery designed to dance with sunbeams and moonlight fairies who bring the messages of eternal hope.







THE ARMORY, HENRY COUNTY BANK, JLK PHOTOGRAPHY, OUT OF THE WOODS and THE NAPOLEON CIVIC CENTER

March 15, 2015 2:00 PM The Armory Arts and Event Center \$25 Mother and Daughter \$10 each additional daughter(s) Invite Grandma(s) to come along additional \$10 each

Or mail: NCC %Joe Aschemeier 90 Bordeaux Nepoleon, OH 43545 (checks payable to Napoleon Chric Center) Tickets also available at The Armory

From Becky's Recipe Book - Becky Schindler

Horse-y spread

12 oz. Pineapple preserves

8 oz. fresh horseradish, well drained

1T. cracked peppercorns,or more to taste

1 T. dry mustard or to taste

2(8oz.) pkg cream cheese

Triscuits

Mix together first four ingredients and pour mixture over cream cheese and serve with Triscuits. This makes enough for 2 bricks of cream cheese, and will keep in the fridge for about a month. I add Green food coloring for the St. Patrick's school auction, and mold the cheese into a shamrock.

This is a very tasty.



Lunch & Dinner Menus & Programs.

July 13 @ 5:30 pm

Hot Pulled Chicken Sandwich BBQ Beef Sandwich w/Blackberries Potato Salad Baked Beans Cole Slaw Deviled Eggs, Fresh Vegetables and Ranch Dip Cupcakes Coffee/Tea

September 14 @ 5:30 pm

Meatloaf w/Brown Sugar Glaze Garlic Mashed Potatoes Candied Carrots Tossed Salad Rolls and Butter Sheet Cake Coffee/Tea

November 9 @ 11:30 am

Oven Roasted Turkey and Stuffing Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Roasted Brussel Sprouts Sweet Corn Cranberry Salad Rolls and Butter Pumpkin Pie Coffee/Tea

December 14 @ 11:30 am

Not sure about December's menu since I will need to see the price of Beef at that time.

March 9 @ 11:30 am

Roast Chicken Breast Roasted Redskin Potatoes Green Bean Casserole Broccoli Slaw Rolls and Butter Texas Sheet Cake Coffee/Water

May 11 @ 5:30 pm

Roast Pork Loin w/Apricots and Roast Onion Jam Sweet Potato Casserole Sweet Corn Homemade Applesauce Chopped Salad w/Lemon Vinaigrette Rolls and Butter Cake Coffee/Tea



Bonnie's Birthday List - Bonnie Eddy

1-Mar	Joseph, Robert	1-Apr	Grime, J. Gene	29-Apr	Schlade, Janice
3-Mar	Steed, Joan	1-Apr	Rettig, Roland	1-May	Mires-Fejes, Shirlee
3-Mar	Warnimont, Bev	4-Apr	Fruth, Kirk	6-May	Ritchey, Cheryl J
6-Mar	Miller, John J	4-Apr	Funchion, Peg	6-May	Rohrs, Kay
10-Mar	Baldwin, Richard Neil	6-Apr	Shafer, Ann *	15-May	George, Barbara
12-Mar	Maassel, Karen	13-Apr	Holzer, Milred	16-May	Lyne, Larry B
13-Mar	Behrman, Walter	13-Apr	Potter, Martha L	17-May	Lammers, Tom
13-Mar	Guelde, Deb	15-Apr	Fruchey, Jack C	18-May	Flick, Neil R
14-Mar	Eddy, John	16-Apr	Dirr, Earlene A	20-May	Leonard, Carol
20-Mar	Baker, Bob	19-Apr	Freppel, Charlene	23-May	Hemsoth, Charles N
22-Mar	Sasaki, Laryce M	21-Apr	Behnfeldt, Paul	25-May	Cline, Garry
23-Mar	Utz, Rick L	22-Apr	Bretz, Nan	26-May	Neuenschwander, Kenneth
23-Mar	Williams, Shirley J	26-Apr	Sutton Wendell		
30-Mar	Wagner, Linda M	29-Apr	Chamberlin, Becky		



Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer

Eleanor Engler, The Worthington, 1201 River Ridge Court, Apt. 310, Gahanna, OH
43230, Email - imeleanor@icloud.com
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 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



Becky Schindler 9208 C. Rd. T Liberty Center, OH 43545





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