

News to Share

Henry County Retired Teachers Association O.R.T.A. 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 6

December 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.

Next Meeting – December 14, 2015

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday December 14th at 11:30am. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon. The program for this meeting is a concert of Christmas music by a musical quartet, Nostalgia. Garry Cline, a member of the quartet as well as HCRT, promises to get the crowd in on some of the songs. I'm sure this program of music will put us all in the Holiday mood! The menu for this meeting is Prime rib, candied sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, tossed salad, and red velvet cupcakes. We hope to see you there!

Meal Reservations and Costs

Just a reminder that meal costs are \$11.00 per person. We do have to guarantee the count to the caterer so if you make a reservation and then do not attend we still must pay for the meal that was ordered and delivered. That means that you need to either send the \$11.00 or have another member take your reservation. Anne Rausch handles reservations through a group of callers who email or phone 10 people each. We need to have your reservation confirmation back to your normal caller **by December 8th**, or contact Anne directly if you cannot reach your caller. Thank you.

December 14th - Meeting Volunteers

Thank you to the following people who volunteered to help set up the tables and chairs and put them away after the meeting ends.

Set Up	(Doors unlocked at 10:30am)	Take Down	(After the meeting)
1	Ruth Johnson	1	Charlie Meyer
2	Jerri Osborn	2	Roland & Janice Rettig
3	Jan Schlade	3	Larry Sasaki
4	Charlie Meyer	4	Terry Witt

Napoleon Elementary School – Dedication Ceremonies – December 15th

Members of the Henry County Retired Teachers are invited to the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Napoleon Elementary School. The dedication will take place Tuesday December 15th at the new elementary school. At 5:30pm there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the front doors, followed by a dedication ceremony at 5:40pm in the gymnasium. Guests will be able to tour the new facilities after the ceremony. Our chapter president will offer congratulations on behalf of the HCRTA.



**HCRTA
Secretary's
Report**

**Henry County Retired Teachers Association
Secretary's Report
November 9, 2015**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for November was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, new member Dave Follett was welcomed to the meeting. Guest John Kline was also introduced later in the meeting. A moment of silence was observed for the passing of member Don Flory and for Kathy Gubernath, a teacher from Napoleon known to many. President Shrider then asked volunteers from each table to hold signs displaying the names of various retail stores. These were then arranged in chronological order, as to when they first opened their doors, thus determining the order of dismissing to the serving table. Blessing was offered and a delicious meal of pork loin and trimmings was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, the business meeting was called to order. The Secretary's report was accepted as written and the Treasurer's report was also accepted and filed for audit.

President Shrider passed around sign-up sheets, asking for volunteers to help with set up of tables and chairs at each meeting, as well as clean up. More hands make light work!

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Sandy Honemann and Marlene Jones both reported sending greetings to various members. It was reported that Barb Schnabele is having medical issues and could use cheery greetings.

Dictionary Committee: Gene Grime reported that all of the books have been distributed. He had thank you letters from many of the students on hand for members to see.

Legislative: Becky Schindler reported on the Medicare pricing issue. Through the lobbying efforts of many groups, an anticipated 52% increase was reduced to a 14% increase. This is only one recent example of the need for constant vigilance of members

on these types of issues and how important our input can be to avoid unreasonable changes. Steve Seagrave will post the details of this particular issue on the website for those who wish to know more.

Membership: Nan Bretz again welcomed new member Dave Follett. She and Steve Seagrave are working to update the membership list.

HCRT Foundation: Jerri Osborn reported that the committee will meet on January 5, 2016, to begin the process of selecting scholarship winners for next year. President Shrider noted that a photo of this past year's winners was included in the current issue of the ORTA Newsletter.

Old business:

Charlie Meyer thanked those who have volunteered to make cookies or lend train sets for the Symphony of Trees Children's program on November 22.

President Shrider then discussed the election of officers for the following year. The current slate of officers had been contacted and all had agreed to serve another term. Steve Seagrave moved, seconded by Charlie Meyer that the slate be elected. Motion passed.

New Business:

Discussion was held concerning our community project for next year. We can continue with Together We Can Make A Difference, or perhaps consider others, such as First Call for Help, Hope Services or Angels Sending Hope. As part of this discussion, President Shrider reported that ORTA is encouraging chapters to support Habitat for Humanity this year. Charlie Meyer volunteered to contact the Fulton Co. unit of Habitat to determine their needs, as Henry Co. does not have an active chapter of this group. Members were asked to consider all of these choices and/or offer others. At the next meeting, after hearing a report from Charlie on Habitat for Humanity, decisions may be made as to which groups to support. A suggestion was to possibly rotate the groups to support. The issue was tabled for further discussion.

The matter of choosing a caterer for the next year was then discussed. After comments from the floor, Rosemary Pfau moved, seconded by Jerri Osborn, to continue with the current caterer. Motion passed.

The question was raised as to whether the July meeting should be a potluck, as last year. Terry Witt moved, seconded by Nancy Hoover, that the meeting would be a potluck. A suggestion from the floor that this meeting could also include a White Elephant Sale as a fund raiser was also approved.

President Shrider announced that the next meeting's entertainment will be by the group Nostalgia, a quartet with our own Garry Cline as a member. It should be a very enjoyable addition to the holiday season.

Some community announcements were made:

The Community Band will have a Christmas Concert on December 7th at Emanuel Lutheran Church.

Members are invited to the Five Year Celebration of Together We Can Make A Difference on Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, from 2-4 PM at their location on North Perry St.

Members are also invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Napoleon Elementary School on Dec. 15, 2015. President Shrider will be making remarks at this ceremony on behalf of the HCRTA.

Guest John Kline was the lucky winner of the 50/50 drawing.

After the meeting was adjourned, a very interesting program was presented by Steve Kryder and Chuck Thomas, concerning the preservation of Civil War era letters from the Kryder Family. Steve Kryder first explained how these letters came to be discovered in his family, how he became interested in preserving them, and how they are being used to inform new generations about that time in history. They are being used to stimulate curriculum activities in the Otsego Schools, with monetary support and period experts supplied by the Grand Rapids Historical Society. Chuck Thomas, President of the Historical Society, explained that the annual Applebutter Fest is a major fundraiser for the Society, allowing them to fund these activities. Northwest State Community College has been instrumental in helping to preserve the letters and they are in the process of digitalizing the information. This will make it possible to have the information available on their website for researchers interested in this period of history.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary

From the President's Pen – Charlotte Shrider

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and is deep in preparations for Christmas. Time goes so quickly, doesn't it? It seems I just put the decorations away a few months ago! I have really enjoyed my first year as President and am looking forward to



servicing another year. We have a few new projects in the works for community service including a project with the Fulton County Habitat for Humanity. Our next meeting promises to be on filled with good food, good music and lots of fellowship. Hope you are planning to be there!

If you haven't attended a meeting in a while, why not make it a point to join us at the December meeting? We would love to see you!
Charlotte

Medicare Update from ORTA



Becky Shindler, our HCRTA legislative liaison, and the Ohio Retired Teachers Association have been keeping us informed of action at the federal level regarding the proposed Medicare rates for 2016.

Many groups lobbied Congress to change the current law/rules so that the 30% of retirees on Medicare not also on Social Security did not end up paying a 52% increase to cover the costs for 100% of those on Medicare. These efforts were successful in reducing the increase on us.

As a result of Congressional action by the US House on October 28 and the US Senate on October 30, beginning January 1, 2016 new enrollees and current Medicare B beneficiaries who aren't on Social Security (**THAT IS THE MAJORITY OF STRS BENEFIT RECIPIENTS-----US!**) — and who do not have high incomes — will notice a 14% increase in monthly Medicare B premiums from the current \$104.90 per month to a total of \$123 per month---a premium of \$120 PLUS an additional \$3 per month surcharge. The deductible has been set at \$167 (up from the current \$147) for 2016. It will be the same increase for EVERYONE on Medicare B---even those who have their premium held harmless.

For a complete explanation of this issue see the information posted on the HCRTA web site.

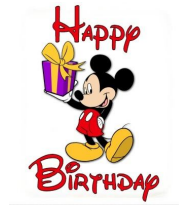
CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES

If your address, phone, or email changes please be sure to notify our membership chairperson, Nan Bretz, and the newsletter editor, Steve Seagrave so we can be sure the directory gets updated and you get association meeting and program information.

Nan - nanbretz@hotmail.com

Steve – sseagrave@roadrunner.com

Birthday List



Dec. 19	Lynette Kay Tietje	Feb. 12	Jan Hockman
Dec. 20	Bonnie Sasaki	Feb. 12	Teresa L Rohrs
Dec. 20	Wayne Short	Feb. 15	Beverly Curtis
Dec. 24	Anne Rausch	Feb. 15	Deb Feehan
Dec. 30	Charles E Griffith	Feb. 15	Sandra R Honemann
Jan. 03	Rita R Grant	Feb. 15	Sue A Mohr
Jan. 06	Jim Snider	Feb. 17	Donna L Buehrer
Jan. 08	Larry Sasaki	Feb. 18	LeAnn Hall
Jan. 09	Lawrence Vocke	Feb. 18	Heather S Northcutt
Jan. 10	Karen Stein	Feb. 23	Morten Anderson
Jan. 10	Dora W Titgemeyer	Feb. 23	Joyce E Benedict
Jan. 11	Max Fetterman	Feb. 23	Faith Hurst
Jan. 14	Mary Lou Mengerink	Feb. 23	Thomas Kern
Jan. 15	Janet E Frederick	Feb. 28	Don Bright
Jan. 15	Sherley Mason	Feb. 28	Dolores Zachrich
Jan. 15	Charles H Meyer	Mar. 01	Robert Joseph
Jan. 18	David Follett	Mar. 02	Kevin Milius
Jan. 19	Barb Walker	Mar. 03	Joan Steed
Jan. 23	Becky Schindler	Mar. 03	Bev Warnimont
Jan. 24	Charlene Neuenschwander	Mar. 06	John J Miller
Jan. 26	Peg Behnfeldt	Mar. 10	Richard Neil Baldwin
Jan. 28	Bonnie Eddy	Mar. 12	Karen Maassel
Jan. 29	Lu Alexander	Mar. 13	Walter Behrman
Jan. 30	Phyllis Hesterman	Mar. 13	Deb Guelde
Feb. 03	Carl Dettmer	Mar. 14	John Eddy
Feb. 06	Doris Ruby	Mar. 20	Bob Baker
Feb. 09	Nancy Hoover		

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We would like to update our mailing list for those who receive a copy of the newsletter through the mail. We are hoping that some of you have gotten email since you first filled out your membership form. We want to continue to send the newsletter to those without email, but it would help keep our costs down if you could receive it electronically. If you have received this by U.S. mail and you have an email address, please forward your email to sseagrave@roadrunner.com Thank you for your help!

HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Duane Ressler

Treasurer

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2015

<u>Date</u>	<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Oct. 15	Balance brought forward			\$2,364.26
Oct. 23	Deposit	Dictionary project	\$249.90	\$2,614.16
Nov. 01	Deposit	Interest	\$0.07	\$2,614.23
Nov. 03	Deposit	HCB Promo Credit	\$10.00	\$2,624.23
Nov. 9	Ck. #1247 City of Napoleon	Shelterhouse rental	(\$85.00)	\$2,539.23
Nov. 10	Deposit from meeting	Meals...\$550, 50/50...\$22		
		dues Bev Phillips \$15	\$587.00	\$3,126.23
Nov. 10	Ck. #1248 AKA Designs	meals for meeting	(\$480.00)	\$2,646.23
Nov. 10	Ck. # 1250 AKA Designs	2 extra meals	(\$20.00)	\$2,626.23
Nov. 24	Ck. # 1249 Charlotte Shrider	postage	(\$26.95)	\$2,599.28
	Ending Balance Checking			\$2,599.28
Oct. 15	HENRY COUNTY BANK CD	balance		\$1,264.52
Oct. 15	FIRST FEDERAL BANK CD	balance		\$1,171.19
	GRAND TOTAL-ALL ACCOUNTS			\$5,034.99
NOTE:	Members who pay annual dues for either HCRTA and/or ORTA may pay at our next meeting or mail their check(s) to the treasurer. HCRTA annual dues is \$15, ORTA is \$30. Nan Bretz has updated membership list if you are not sure if you are annual or life members.			

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

Earlene Dirr, % Karen Maassel, 14-620 Co. Rd. D, New Bavaria, Ohio 43548

Martha Alspaugh, 140 W. North St., McClure, Ohio 43534

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





We have lost one of our members,
Jenny Lee Shartzter on November 9th.



HCRT FOUNDATION – Donation Form

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 Association.

My donation preference is:

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

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

HCRTA
735 Sheffield
Napoleon OH 43545

postage

Member
Address