

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 23, Issue 3

July 2017

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

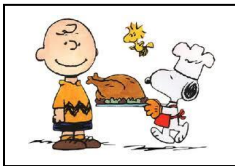
Within five years, HCRTA will move to a position among the top five chapters in Ohio, as it builds upon its legacy of encouraging scholarship, fostering volunteerism, promoting and protecting retiree interests, supporting advancement of public education in Ohio, developing a proactive membership.

Next Meeting – July 10, 2017

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday July 10th at 5:30pm. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM - Book grant winners and their families will be guests at our dinner. **Penny Miller**, will be showing how she trains service dogs to support individuals with disabilities to live independently.

MENU – The menu includes ham sandwiches, baked beans, potato salad, macaroni salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs and vegetable tray, strawberry shortcake. We hope to see you there!



Meal Reservations

Remember that meal costs are \$13.00 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 \$13.00 or have another member take your reservation. Charlotte Shrider handles reservations through a group of callers who email or phone 10 people each. We need to have your reservation back to your normal caller **by July 3rd**, or contact her directly (419-599-1356) if you cannot reach your caller. Thank you.

New Member

We have a new member who has joined. Please introduce yourself and welcome her at the next meeting! Add her information into your copy of the HCRTA member directory.

Diane K. Meyer

Cell-419-966-3622

C950 County Road 18, Holgate, OH 43527

Retired from Holgate Schools 2014

July 10th - Meeting Volunteers

Volunteers are needed. If you can help, call Charlotte. 419-599-1356

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 4:30pm)		Hostess Committee	
Nancy Schink	Jan Schlade	Becky Schindler	Becky Chamberlin
Ruth Johnson	Karen Maassel	Marlene Jones	

Volunteers are needed after the meeting to put away tables and chairs.

Are You Missing Out on Important STRS Updates?

Have you signed up to receive the automatic STRS eUPDATES? If not, you could be missing out on valuable information. To sign up, visit www.strsoh.org and scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the black box that says "SUBSCRIBE". This will open an email message to STRS. Give them your email address and tell them you are a retired teacher and want to receive the eUPDATES.

Subscribe to our eUPDATE emails

SUBSCRIBE



Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report – May 8, 2017

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for May was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, new member LeAnn Kraft and guest Vicki Gramling were recognized. Two other guests/possible new members, Cathy Croninger and Carol Rorick, also attended and were recognized when they arrived. President Shrider thanked Rich and Faith Hurst, with assistance from Max and Pat Fetterman, for being the host committee for the meeting.

Tables were dismissed to the meal by means of putting into sequence titles of books according to the year they were published. A delicious meal of chicken breast, mashed potatoes/gravy and sides was enjoyed, with angel food cake accented with strawberries for dessert.

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

Committee Reports:

Courtesy: Marlene Jones reported sending get well greetings to Mary Jane Myrice and Sandy Honemann sent word that she had done the same for Shirley Baldwin.

Legislative: Becky Schindler presented information on COLA. This benefit is gone for now and Becky urged all present to stay on top of this critical issue.

Membership: Nan Bretz welcomed the two new guests, Cathy and Carol.

Community Service: Tom Jenny again had slips on each table for members to fill out volunteer hours. Last time 950 hours were reported by 28 people. Tom reminded everyone to be sure to put down any hours they have served, as this is an important reminder of the continuing contribution to the community made by our retired members.

Gene Grime then introduced Michelle Rychener from Henry County Hospital, who spoke of the many opportunities for volunteering available at the hospital. Volunteers staff the Welcome Center and gift

shop, assist in serving meals, are there to support patients at the Cancer Center, and even assist with housekeeping chores. They visit with patients. Volunteers are a vital part of the operations at the hospital. Michelle commended the group on the many ways we serve the community already in various capacities for many different organizations and invited anyone who would wish to serve at the hospital to contact her for more information. She had handouts available, an application form for volunteers at the hospital, as well as another flier that listed many of the jobs available for willing volunteers.

Webmaster/Newsletter: Steve Seagrave again had available copies of the directory for those wishing to purchase a hard copy. They are \$5.00.

Historian: Faith Hurst reported receiving an article today and always appreciates those who bring things to her to be included in the historical records.

Education Foundation: Terri Witt reported that there were four applicants for the Griffith Grants and the winner was Emma Babcock. Applications for the other book grants are due June 1st. Recipients and their parents will be invited to the July meeting.

Old business: President Shrider reminded folks of the "tip bags" on each table. Contributions are to be earmarked for a speakers' fund. She read thank you notes from Operation Grain Train and Habitat for Humanity for our recent contributions to their organizations.

New Business: Penny Miller will be the speaker at the next meeting, discussing her work with service dogs. Book grant winners and their parents will be invited, with the expense of their meals being taken care of by funds from the Education Foundation. Reminders were given to those who volunteered for set up and hostess duties for the next meeting.

Rosalie Ashenfelter was the winner of the 50/50 drawing.

With no further business to be brought forward, the meeting was adjourned. We were then treated to an interesting talk by our guest speaker, Megan Spengler. She has written three books for middle age students. She described to us the process that led her to be interested in doing this, as well as the many steps involved in getting a book to a publisher and eventually into the hands of readers. From the beginning stages of writing the story, through formatting, editing and selection of illustrations, to final approval and printing, books take many months, sometimes years to go from beginning to end. Megan also had books available for those wishing to purchase.

She said she has learned much about the process of writing and publishing books, as did we by listening to her interesting story.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bev Wittes, HCRTA Secretary

From the President's Pen – Charlotte Shrider

I hope everyone's summer is off to a great start! I am not much of an outdoor type but I bet many of you have spent days planting gardens and flowers. I do like to sit outside and read in the shade and read and read! That brings me to my idea for this next meeting. I have at least 25 books that I have read recently. These are current books from Barnes and Noble, not used ones from garage sales or musty from a basement! Many are hardbacks. I will bring them to the July meeting and have them for sale for a donation to the speakers fund. I hope you can find something you like and help our fund grow!



Charlotte

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

Foundation Donations Received

Foundation Treasurer Gene Grime reported the following people/groups made donations to the foundation. Those with * were gifts in memory of Bonnie Eddy, a member and former officer of HCRTA.

Henry County Garden Club*
Mike & Joyce Hubbell*
Phillip & Marian Parsons*
Black Swamp Hosta & Daylily*
Charlene Patz*

DO NOT CALL LIST - RESERVATIONS

If you are on the “Do Not Call List” but plan to attend the next HCRTA meeting you can phone your reservation to Charlotte Shrider at 419-599-1356 or email her at cshrider1@roadrunner.com.

2017 BOOK GRANT WINNERS

Griffith Family Book Grant
Emma Babcock – Liberty Center H.S.

Lucille and Margaret Sherman Book Grant
Michaela Jones - Holgate H.S.

Roger King Book Grant
Anna Murcko - Napoleon H.S.

Karen Brubaker Book Grant
Taylor Fausey - Napoleon H.S.

Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer!

Doris Ruby, 1036 S. Perry Street, Lutheran Home, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Charles Hemsoth, Box 36, Malinta, OH 43535

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

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

Barabara Schnabele, 415 N. Oak, Deshler, Ohio 43516

If you know of updates needed to this list contact Sandy Honeman or Marlene Jones.



HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Report for JULY 2017		Duane Ressler, Treasurer		
Date	Transaction	Description	Amount	Balance
Apr. 14		Balance brought forward		\$3,572.47
Apr. 30	Deposit	HCB interest	\$0.08	\$3,572.55
May 05	Deposit	HCRTA dues life...D. Meyer	\$50.00	\$3,622.55
May 08	ck. # 1286 City of Napoleon	Shelter house rental	(\$90.00)	\$3,532.55
	ck. #1288 C. Shrider	postage	(\$19.60)	\$3,512.95
	ck. #1288 AKA Designs	meals for meeting	(\$484.00)	\$3,028.95
	ck. #1289 HCRTA Foundation	memorials	(\$50.00)	\$2,978.95
May 09	Deposit	Meals \$531, 50/50 \$19, speaker fund \$76, TWCMD \$49		
		local dues \$20, directory \$5	\$700.00	\$3,678.95
	ck. #1290 TWCMD	member donations	(\$49.00)	\$3,629.95
May 31	Deposit	HCB interest	\$0.09	\$3,630.04
June 01	Deposit	ORTA dues rebate D. Meyer	\$10.00	\$3,640.04
June 10	Deposit	local dues Milius, Miller, Feehan	\$45.00	\$3,685.04
June 14	Ending Balance			\$3,685.04
June 14	HENRY COUNTY BANK CD	balance		\$1,285.64
	GRAND TOTAL-ALL ACCOUNTS			\$4,970.68

Don't Miss Out On Getting the Latest ORTA News

ORTA has transitioned to electronic communication. This allows ORTA to send out the Quarterly to your email and save about \$20,000. ORTA asks members to make sure your name, address AND email address are current and provided to the ORTA office. Go to the ORTA web site and click on the link at the bottom of the page, or enter this address in your web browser. Then fill in your information.

<http://www.orta.org/gathering-membership-emails.html>

A PDF version of the newsletter is available on the web site for those without email.

Excerpt from June ORTA Newsletter

For those who get the ORTA newsletter each month you already know that STRS has pushed more changes to the retirement system. Here is an excerpt from the June ORTA News.

“What was achieved by all of this advocacy? Not nearly what we had hoped, but more than what might have occurred. Originally, STRS proposed to ELIMINATE the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all retirees. Partly due to our efforts, their formal action now includes the requirement to examine, in no less than five years, the state of the pension fund and to bring back the COLA, if the fund has recovered sufficiently. While it is not clear if STRS will be able to reinstate the COLA in five years or less, what is certain is that there would be NO consideration of bringing it back, had our organization not advocated for its members. Also, at the same time, the STRS Board was considering making some significant changes to the health care program that would have directly cost our members. Again, ORTA representatives lobbied STRS Board members, arguing that these negative changes would be too difficult for retirees on limited budgets to handle, especially on top of the loss of the COLA. For now, at least, the STRS Board backed off the worst options for changes for our health care program.”



DONATION OPPORTUNITY

We would like to give those of you that can't attend meetings the chance to contribute to our chapter's causes. This year we are again helping to support *Together We Can Make a Difference*. Together we can make a difference assists people of all ages in Northwest Ohio with basic needs and resources that are not available with any government assistance programs. With your help we could really add support to this great organization. Remember your gifts are tax deductible. Members who do attend regularly might also want to consider writing a check to simplify things and to have a record of your giving. Please send your check to Duane Ressler. Thanks for considering these worthwhile projects!

Enclosed is a check for my donation made out to this organization.

_____ Together We Can Make a Difference: \$ _____

Duane Ressler
 HCRTA Treasurer
 1124 Clairmont Avenue
 Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Birthday List

July 14	Wesche, Mary Kay *	Aug. 13	Agler, Carol
July 17	Gerken, Kae	Aug. 13	Baldwin, Nancy
July 19	Schink, Nancy C	Aug. 19	Meyer, Diane
July 24	Ashenfelter, Rosalie A	Aug. 19	Meyer, James
July 25	Buchhop, Diane	Aug. 21	Krueger, Marlyn
July 27	Plassman, Carolyn J	Aug. 21	Rosebrook, Judy
July 28	Babcock, Sally *	Aug. 24	Denny, Gerry L *
July 31	Conrad, David L	Aug. 27	Nagel, Barbara *** & *
July 31	Johnson, Ruth R	Sep. 04	Schroeder, Jack
Aug. 01	Osborn, Jerri	Sep. 05	Myers, Joan C *
Aug. 02	Joseph, Mary H	Sep. 06	Wade, Mary Ann Wade
Aug. 06	Myrice, Mary Jane	Sep. 08	Weaver, Sally J
Aug. 07	Krugh, W. Tennyson *	Sep. 09	Sutton, Margaret
Aug. 10	Schall, Nancy A *	Sep. 10	Wittes, Beverly Ann
Aug. 11	Shepard, Jan	Sep. 15	Helberg, Kathryn J
Aug. 12	Alsbaugh, Jane *		



HCRTA Web Site

Below is our HCRTA web site. Check there for information and links.

<http://henrycountyrta.weebly.com/>

ORTA Web Site

Below is the ORTA web site. Check there for information and links.

- Update your membership information.
- Sign up for email alerts.
- Read ORTA newsletters.
- Check member benefits.

<http://www.orta.org/>

Foundation Officers for 2017

President - Terry Witt
 Vice-President - Linda Wagner
 Secretary - Steve Seagrave
 Treasurer - Gene Grime



Michelle Rychener from Henry County Hospital



Megan Spengler, our speaker, and her books

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.

NOTE: Gifts to the Foundation may ONLY be used for our book grants and associated costs such as postage, etc. They may NOT be used for regular HCRTA expenses or programs.

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.

Send donations to Gene Grime, HCRT Foundation Treasurer, 92 Old Creek Drive, Napoleon, OH 43545.)

My donation preference is:

Lois Griffith Book Grant

Roger King Book Grant

Margaret & Lucille Sherman Book Grant

Karen Brubaker Book Grant

Undesignated

HCRTA

735 Sheffield

Napoleon OH 43545

postage

Member

Address