

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 27, Issue 1

March 2021

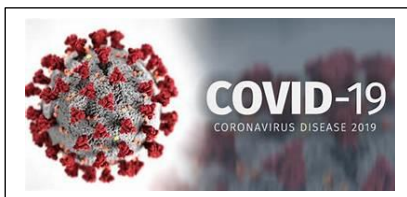
Mission Statement

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.

March Meeting – Cancelled



The March meeting of HCRTA have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe. President Charlotte and the officers will assess things again as we see the progress of health measures. We HOPE to be able to hold the May meeting if members are able to get their vaccinations. Meanwhile, take the precautions necessary to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Project We Care

At our March 2020 meeting we heard from *Project We Care's* administrator, Maggie Westrick. She relayed to us the work they do at Christmas time to help children and families in need. Last year they helped almost 1,000 families. Since we have not been meeting due to the pandemic if you wish to send a donation to them directly, please use this address: **Maggie Westrick, Project We Care, P.O. Box 192, Holgate, Ohio 43527.** Thanks so much for contributing to Project we Care!



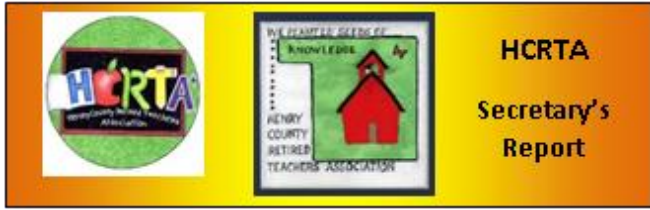
We have lost one of our members:
Shirley Ann Sickmiller on January 11, 2021



REMINDER – If you change your phone number, email address, or physical address be sure to notify our membership chair, Nan Bretz, and the newsletter editor, Steve Seagrave.

FOUNDATION BOARD

The board did not meet in January. There is essential business to handle so the board WILL meet in March using the Zoom virtual meeting APP. This will be March 9th at 10:00am.



Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report

Since the recent meetings have been cancelled there are no minutes to publish.

REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

If you have not already done so, please add up your volunteer hours since the March 2020 meeting and email these to Jan. At the March 9, 2020

meeting there was a total of 1,372.5 volunteer hours.



Stephen

Seagrave, Tom

Jenny, Gene Grime, and Shirlee Mires-Fejes were the top four. Since March 2020 there has been a total of 582.75 hours reported. That brings the total for 2020 to 1955.25 hours.

If you emailed Jan after the November 2020 newsletter start from that point. One of the things we try to do is to keep track of the number of volunteer hours our members contribute to our community. You can submit your numbers at the meeting, or you can email them to our coordinator, **Jan Schlade**. So, what should you count? Include any unpaid activity to benefit others or your community. If you miss a meeting, just email your numbers to Jan!

jj Schlade@gmail.com

From the President's Pen – Charlotte Shrider

Greeting to all of you! I certainly hope you have all been well during our long absence from each other. I so hoped to have our March meeting, but the vaccines are taking longer than I hoped to get to everyone. My husband and I have registered in three places but are still waiting to be called. We WILL have our May meeting. I am hopeful we will all have had our second shot and will be able to meet as we normally do. If things aren't much improved by May, we will meet outside and sit a safe distance apart. Put May 10 on your calendar! I am so thankful for all the officers and callers that agreed to another year of service. Stay safe and try to keep smiling. Remember statistically 6 out of 7 dwarfs weren't Grumpy.

AUDIT COMPLETED

The HCRTA books have been audited for 2020. Marvin Barlow audited the books. The audit letter he sent dated January 20 and stated that after review of the checkbook and bank statements, the records show good accounting practices. The records showed an income \$58.82 over expenses for operation during calendar year 2020. The records were clear and accurate.

2021 DIRECTORY UPDATE

We have emailed the directory to everyone who has given us an email address. We have asked everyone to check their contact information and notify us of any changes in address, phone, email, etc. We hope to have the final version available in print form for the May meeting.

If you do not have email, please check your most recent copy of the directory and let us know of changes. **If you do not have a directory at all, or if anything has changed in the last 3-4 years, please phone Steve Seagrave at 419-822-4884 and leave your name and changed information on his answering machine.** Thanks!

HCRT Foundation Annual Report 2020

The HCRT Foundation met twice since the 2019 General Meeting. (January 2020 and March 2020) Due to the pandemic meetings since then have been cancelled. (September 2020 and January 2021) The organizational meeting for 2021 will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 via Zoom. Officers for 2021 will be selected at this meeting.

Since the 2020 General Meeting could not be held in December due to the pandemic there was no election for a Board Member for the term starting January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2025. The Constitution allows the Foundation Board to appoint people to fill any open unexpired terms and will likely do so at the March 2021 meeting.

The board members for the year 2020 were: Becky Chamberlin-agent, Gene Grime-Treasurer, Linda Wagner-President, Charles Klamer-Vice-President, Steve Seagrave-Treasurer and members Sandy Honemann, Jamie Bostelman, and Gregg Merrill. Terry Witt acted as Book Grant Chairman.

Treasurer Gene Grime will provide the financial report, and it will be in the next newsletter.

The history of the Foundation has been updated with the names of the grant recipients for 2020. Audrey Wade (2020 Napoleon) Griffith Grant Winner, Maxwell Weaver (2019 Liberty Center) Karen

Brubaker Grant winner, and Chase Gruenhagen (2017 Napoleon) Lucille and Margaret Sherman Grant winner.

The grants awarded were in the amount of \$1500. (The due date for the Griffith Grant is April 6th.) The information for the grants will be delivered to the 4 county high school guidance departments by members of the Foundation board. An invitation to apply for the grants will be sent to the 2020 recipients and applicants by mail. A note will be sent to all homes as well. Information about the grants will be presented to the media outlets in Henry County. Information about the grants and applications are also available on the HCRT website.

Please feel free to encourage any qualified individual you may know to apply. The board has

established a policy that an additional grant may be awarded to a direct descendent of one of the creator/namesakes of a book grant. The Foundation has awarded 55 book grants, totaling \$39,500 since 1998. Contributions to the Foundation may be made any time by sending them to Gene Grime. – Linda Wagner, President

NOTE OF CHEER INFO NEEDED

If anyone knows of a member who needs a “note of cheer” due to illness, struggles, or loss please contact our cheer coordinators. Sandy Honemann (419-274-7194) handles members south of the river and Marlene Jones (419-533-4788) handles those north of the river.

Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer!

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

Charles Hemsoth, Box 36, Malinta, OH 43535

Carolyn Plassman, Genacross Lutheran Home, 1036 S. Perry St, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Jackie Sautter, Fairlawn Haven, Room 132, East Lutz Road, Archbold, Ohio 43502

Barbara Schnabele, VanCrest Health Center, 600 E. Joe E. Brown, Holgate, Ohio 43527

Dolores Zachrich, 1036 S. Perry Street, Lutheran Home, Napoleon, Ohio 43545

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



HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION				
	Duane Ressler, Treasurer	Gregg Merrill, Asst. Treas.	February 2021	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Oct. 20		starting balance		\$3,975.06
Nov. 1	Deposit	interest added back	\$0.07	\$3,975.13
Nov. 30	Deposit	interest added back	\$0.06	\$3,975.19
Dec. 2	Ck #1366 Charlotte Shrider	Postage for newsletters	(\$33.00)	\$3,942.19
Dec. 21	Deposit	interest added back	\$0.07	\$3,942.26
Jan. 21	Deposit	interest added back	\$0.07	\$3,942.33
		Current Balance =		\$3,942.33
	CD Balance as of Dec. 31, 2020	Henry County Bank		\$1,347.91
Jan. 4		Interest earned	\$3.31	\$1,351.22
		Current Balance =		\$1,351.22
Feb. 13		BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =		\$5,293.55

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 helping to support *Project We Care*. This group helps families with needs during the Christmas season, particularly with presents for children. This past December they served about 1000 families. They are looking to start adding services and respond to needs year-round. **Project We Care** is an official 501c3 nonprofit, so donations to them 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!

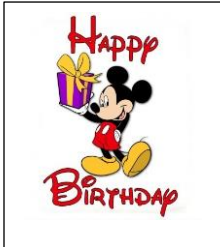
Enclosed is a check for my donation made out to this organization.

_____ Project We Care: \$ _____

Duane Ressler
 HCRTA Treasurer
 1124 Clairmont Avenue
 Napoleon, Ohio 43545

Birthday List – In the last newsletter I included the January and February member birthdays. So this newsletter will include March to May for those who like to send birthday wishes.

Mar. 01	Joseph, Robert **	Apr. 04	Fruth, Kirk
Mar. 02	Milius, Kevin	Apr. 04	Funchion, Peg *
Mar. 03	Steed, Joan	Apr. 06	Shafer, Ann *
Mar. 03	Warnimont, Bev	Apr. 08	Hurst, Sue Ann
Mar. 10	Baldwin, Richard Neil	Apr. 13	Holzer, Mildred
Mar. 12	Maassel, Karen	Apr. 19	Freppel, Charlene
Mar. 13	Behrman, Walter	Apr. 21	Leigh Anne Kraft
Mar. 13	Guelde, Deb	Apr. 22	Bretz, Nan
Mar. 20	Baker, Bob	Apr. 29	Chamberlin, Becky
Mar. 22	Sasaki, Laryce M *	Apr. 29	Schlade, Janice
Mar. 23	Utz, Rick L *	May 01	Mires-Fejes, Shirlee ***
Mar. 23	Williams, Shirley J	May 04	Miller, Janis
Mar. 30	Wagner, Linda M	May 06	Ritchey, Cheryl J
Apr. 01	Grime, J. Gene	May 06	Rohrs, Kay *
Apr. 01	Rettig, Roland ***	May 08	Toepfer, Mary Jill



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/>

Ohio Primary Election – May 4, 2021

January 1st - Applications for absentee ballots for all 2021 elections may be accepted (first day of the year)

April 5th - Deadline for voter registration for May 4 primary/special election (30 days before primary/special election)

April 6th – Early in-person voting begins.

May 1st - Applications for absentee ballots to be mailed for May 4 primary/special election must be received by boards of elections by noon.

May 4th - Primary/Special Election Day. Polls open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Absentee ballots, returned in person or via a method other than U.S. Mail, must be received by the boards of elections by close of polls

May 14th - Absentee ballots returned by U.S. Mail must be postmarked no later than May 3 and received by boards of elections by this date to be counted.

HCRTA Web Site

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

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

HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS FOUNDATION – Gene Grime, Treasurer					2020 year-end report on fund totals		
	Checking	CD's	Invesco	Annuity	%	1-11-2021	Totals
12/31/2020		(approx.	Funds	(guaranteed	of	withdrawal	
		values)		principal)	annuity	from	
<i>SHERMAN FUNDS</i>	\$145.19	\$11,417.70		\$14,448.61	11.13%	\$774.16	\$26,785.66
<i>GRIFFITH FUNDS</i>	\$417.83	\$9,938.11		\$14,448.61	11.13%	\$774.16	\$25,578.71
<i>KING FUNDS</i>	\$1,808.30	\$1,556.49	\$7,713.29	\$10,164.65	7.83%	\$544.63	\$21,787.36
<i>BRUBAKER FUNDS</i>	\$604.69	\$14,189.71		\$90,754.92	69.91%	\$4,862.68	\$110,412.00
TOTALS =	\$2,976.01	\$37,102.01	\$7,713.29	\$129,816.79	100.00%	\$6,955.63	\$184,563.73



Since the last newsletter, the Henry County Retired Teachers Foundation received a donation from Larry Gerken in honor of Karen Brubaker.

Keep the Foundation in mind when giving donations in memory of friends and relatives.

ORTA News

From Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Directory

Greetings Henry County RTA! 2020 and 2021 thus far, have been challenging for ORTA and its local chapters. As the vaccination program rolls out across Ohio, I am optimistic that things may eventually return to something more normal.

Forensic Audit

The forensic audit donation campaign was successful by any measure. ORTA was able to raise the \$75,000 necessary to engage Mr. Edward Siedle to begin a forensic audit of the STRS pension system. I have conveyed the information that led ORTA to engage in such a project previously, however, it is important to note that ORTA began this after several unsatisfactory attempts to determine what is taking place with our pension system. We hope to have a report from Mr. Siedle in about four months.

STRS Elections

This May STRS will hold elections for three seats on the board of trustees for our pension system. Two of those seats are for retirees and are most concern for ORTA members and STRS retirees. There are at least 4 candidates running for these two seats. The four candidates that have contacted ORTA are:

- Incumbents Bob Stein and Rita Walters
- Challengers Rudy Fictenbaum and Liz Jones

ORTA’s Executive Committee discussed whether ORTA would endorse any candidates for these positions. The decision was that since ORTA has not endorsed candidates since 2005 that such an endorsement would not be appropriate for this election. Going forward ORTA will become more involved with STRS elections and develop a committee to vet candidates for these positions. ORTA will share each candidate’s response to a short questionnaire in our monthly newsletters over the next few months. What is important for each STRS retiree is to consider if the current STRS board is meeting the retirees’ needs. We hope that sharing the candidate’s information help each ORTA member decide on these important decisions.

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