

# 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](http://henrycountyrta.weebly.com)

Volume 27, Issue 4

September 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.

## Next Meeting – September 13, 2021

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday September 13th at 5:30pm. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM - Update with the Superintendents of Henry Co. The leaders of our four county schools will share “What’s new at school”. - Eric Belcher, Napoleon; Josh Biederstedt, Patrick Henry; Kelly Meyers, Holgate; Richard Peters, Liberty Center.

MENU - Roast pork loin, sweet potato casserole, corn, steamed green beans, tossed salad, roll and butter and apple cobbler, coffee/water. 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 September 6th** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 419-599-1356.

## Hosts/Hostesses

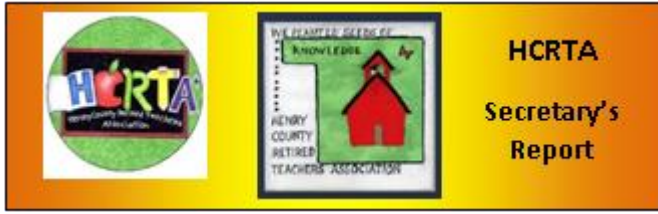
The hosts/hostesses bring a centerpiece for the tables and are responsible for the meal prayer. It can be seasonal or relate to the program topic or it could be a collection or hobby that a member has. Table coverings are provided. Members of the executive board have signed up for most months. We do have a few openings for November and December, so if you would like to help, call Charlotte! If everyone takes a turn it would be great!

## September 13<sup>th</sup> - Meeting Volunteers

Two more setup volunteers are needed. If you can help, call Charlotte. 419-599-1356

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 4:30pm)		Hostess Committee	
Duane Ressler	Help needed	Nan Bretz	And helpers
Charlie Meyer	Help needed		

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



**Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report – July 12, 2021**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for July was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer, President Charlotte recognized the hostess (her) and the set up volunteers Greg and Duane for the evening. The tables were dismissed by what condiment was on the hot dog on the table centerpiece.

Following the meal, Terri Witt announced the 2021 Book Grant Foundation Winners. Allyssa Jackson and Callie Seedorf received the Griffith Family Book Grant. Emma Burkey received the Lucille and Margaret Sherman Book Grant. Max Weaver was awarded the Karen Brubaker Book Grant and Audrey Wade received the King Book Grant.

Justin Ruffer and Robert Lipscomb from the Napoleon Police Department along with police dog, Luke, were introduced. Ruffer explained the research he had done to obtain the dog. Funding for the canine officer was obtained through grants and 33 private donations. Lipscomb, Luke's trainer, talked about the 400 hours of training Luke received to prepare for his duties to help track felons, sniff out drugs and help to clear buildings. Although well trained, Luke is constantly being taught to become a better officer.

President Shrider opened the meeting. The treasurer and secretary's report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

**Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy** - none

**ORTA news and notes** - Steve Seagrave updated the group on the audit and urges everyone to read the Executive Summary and then CONTACT your state senator. ORTA wants clarity as to what has happened to funds and is suing the STRS for information.

**Membership** - Nan Bretz mailed packets to several teachers that had retired this spring.

**Community Service** - Jan Schlade reported that members logged 1065 volunteer hours. Larry Zachrich and Bev Wittes were the top volunteers.

**Education Foundation** - Terri Witt reported that the Foundation needs volunteers to help.

**Old Business:**

It was decided to continue give out dictionaries to children in area elementary schools.

The Community project was discussed. Bill Lytle made a motion to support the Humane Society for the remainder of the year. Gregg Merrill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bev Wittes volunteered to take the donations brought in to the Humane Society.

**New Business:**

Mary Ann Wade volunteered to take over the name tag job. Thank you to Becky Schindler for your years of service.

Becky Schindler won \$18.00 in the 50/50 raffle.

The next meeting will be at 5:30pm on September 13, 2021. The Henry County School superintendents are scheduled to speak.

Nan Bretz and Fiends will serve as hostesses. Duane Ressler and Charles Meyer will set up.

Nancy Hoover made a motion to adjourn. Dan Baer seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Schwiebert, HCRTA Secretary

**HUMANE SOCIETY ITEMS TO BRING**

Reminder – We decided to bring donations for the Henry County Humane Society to the remaining 2021 meetings. Here are the things that they need.



- paper towels      bleach
- Mr. Clean cleanser
- collars, leashes    hand towels      Dawn dish soap
- wash cloths      baby food: beef, chicken, or turkey
- 32- or 39-gallon trash bags      disposable gloves
- Arm & Hammer laundry detergent
- newspaper (without adds)

**NOTE OF CHEER**

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.

**DONATION RECEIVED**

Our foundation received a donation from Treva Stevens in memory of Sally Babcock.



## We have lost more of our members:

Sally Babcock on July 4, 2021  
Jane Alspaugh on August 12, 2021  
Charles Hemsoth on August 17, 2021  
Carolyn Plassman on August 21, 2021



### **From the President's Pen – Charlotte Shrider**

Doggone if that nasty Covid hasn't reared its ugly head again. We are not going to let it deter us from our meeting though. Feel free to wear a mask except when eating, but it is not a requirement. I am looking forward to hearing from our county Superintendents at the meeting. They certainly have a huge responsibility to their communities. I am ready for some cooler weather. All these days of 90+ degrees are getting tiring! I did have several good things happen though in these dog days of August. I won \$1,250 dollars on a slot machine at Firekeepers, and our grandson graduated from Navy boot camp and is now in his schooling in Pensacola, Florida. Alas I still am tending to the bearded dragon and leopard gecko!

I hope to see many of you at our meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **STRS AUDIT – COLA AND YOU**

You may recall that ORTA hired a company to do a Forensic Audit of the finances and management at STRS.

The Forensic Audit of STRS has been published and is dynamite. FACTS: We could have had our COLA for years except for these facts.

**POOR OVERSIGHT** - elected board members lack of interest in doing their oversight job.

**TRANSPARENCY** - the STRS management team has not provided information required by state and federal law.

**2006 MANDATED CHANGES** – The state mandated audit changes which STRS still has not done. companies.

**BILLIONS** have been squandered and lost over the years through use of “alternate investments” in private companies. In 2017 STRS lost \$525 million when Panda (a company in Texas STRS invested in) filed for bankruptcy in April 2017. This was not revealed until 2020. Meanwhile STRS continued to pay over ½ million \$\$\$ to the Panda Power Fund in 2018 and 2019. Why?

STRS is STILL refusing to provide the following to the auditors that ORTA hired: (1) purchase price of these 135 “alternate investments”, (2) current value of these investments, and (3) fees being paid related to the maintenance of these investments. ORTA has a court case filed seeking to force release of this information.

You can go to the ORTA web site and download and read the audit. Watch the web site for more information.

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

### **ORTA ROBIN RAYFIELD VIDEO**

ORTA Executive Director Robin Rayfield gave a talk to the Warrant County Retired Teachers August 4<sup>th</sup> detailing the audit findings and what we need to do. Here is the YouTube link you can watch.

<https://youtu.be/vpBdTHqkMGI>

### **STRS MEETING VIDEO – August 17**

A large group of retirees went to the monthly STRS board meeting to push for answers. Below is the video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdxJHEfsiFU&t=71s>

### **YOUTUBE UPDATES**

You can go to YouTube and search “Ohio Retired Teachers Association”, and it will take you to these videos as well as any updates ORTA posts moving forward.

### **GET INVOLVED!**

- WRITE TO STRS
- CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR
- CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

<b>HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION</b>				
	<b>Duane Ressler, Treasurer</b>	<b>Gregg Merrill, Asst. Treas.</b>	<b>August 2021</b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
May 31		<b>starting balance</b>		<b>\$3,808.09</b>
June 30	Deposit	interest @ 0.02%	\$0.06	\$3,808.15
July 12	CK# 1372 AKA Designs	Meals	(\$539.00)	\$3,269.15
	CK# 1373 C. Shrider	Postage/newsletters	(\$13.75)	\$3,255.40
	CK# 1371 City of Napoleon	Rental of Oberhaus Park	(100.00)	\$3,155.40
July 22	Deposit	Meals \$364; 50/50 \$20; Directories \$15; HCHS \$58	\$399.00	\$3,554.40
Aug. 1	Deposit	Interest @0.02%	\$0.06	\$3,554.46
Aug. 7	Deposit	Meal – G. Osborn	\$13.00	\$3,593.46
		<b>Balance =</b>		<b>\$3,593.46</b>
	CD Balance as of July 1, 2021	Henry County Bank		\$1,354.46
July 4		Interest earned	\$3.29	\$1,357.75
		<b>New Balance =</b>		<b>\$1,357.75</b>
Aug. 29		<b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>		<b>\$4,951.21</b>

**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](mailto:cshrider1@roadrunner.com).



PICTURED Left to Right  
 Callie Seedorf – Griffith Family Book Grant  
 Emma Burkey – Lucille & Margaret Sherman Book Grant  
 Max Weaver – Karen Brubaker Book Grant  
 Audrey Wade – King Book Grant



Alyssa Jackson – Griffith Family Book Grant

**Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer!**

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

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.*



**DONATION OPPORTUNITY**

We would like to give those of you that can't attend meetings the chance to contribute to our chapter's causes. The last two years we supported *Project We Care*. Before that it was *Pillars of Success*. At the July meeting we decided to support the **Henry County Humane Society**. Members who do attend regularly might also want to consider writing a check to simplify things and to have a record of your giving. Thanks for considering these worthwhile projects!

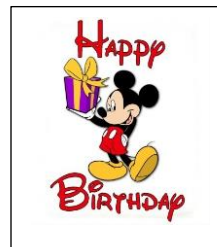
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ to be donated to \_\_\_\_\_

**Duane Ressler**  
 HCRTA Treasurer  
 1124 Clairmont Avenue  
 Napoleon, Ohio 43545

**Birthday List** – Here is the list for those who like to send birthday wishes.

Sep. 20	Hibbard, Jane	Oct. 27	Aschemeier, Janet
Sep. 20	Merrill, Gregg	Nov. 05	Bostelman, Jamie
Sep. 24	Meyer, Konnie *	Nov. 05	Krauskopf, Linda *
Sep. 24	Pfau, Rosemary G	Nov. 07	Jameson, Colleen A
Sep. 25	Church, Fred *	Nov. 09	Shinn, Delbert P *
Oct. 02	Gill, Linda L	Nov. 10	George, James
Oct. 06	Gramling, Vicki	Nov. 13	Long, Larry E
Oct. 07	Rettig Janice J	Nov. 14	Kim Spiess
Oct. 16	Mengerink, Richard	Nov. 15	Ritchey, Gary
Oct. 18	Burson, Susan L	Nov. 20	Krugh, Susan *
Oct. 20	Jenny, Tom R	Nov. 22	Hetrick, Lee *
Oct. 22	Schlosser, Bruce E	Nov. 22	Jones, Marlene
Oct. 23	Phillips, Bev	Nov. 25	Goertz, Cheri
Oct. 24	Roby, Susan D	Nov. 27	Barlow, Linda
Oct. 24	Short, Delores		



**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/>

## 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