

# 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 5

November 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 – November 8, 2021

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, November 8th at 11:30am. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM - Backstage at the Theater - Doris Piercefield - Doris is responsible for costume design at the Stranahan Theater. She will share how she helps to create the costumes, as well as other interesting tidbits of what goes on backstage during a performance.

MENU - Roast turkey breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green bean casserole, tossed salad, roll and butter and pumpkin pie, 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 November 1st** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 419-599-1356.

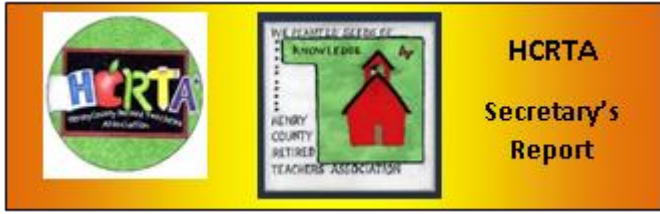
## Hosts/Hostesses

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 December, so if you would like to help, call Charlotte! If everyone takes a turn it would be great!

## **November 8<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 10:30am)		Hostess Committee	
Rich Hurst	Faith Hurst	Pam Schwiebert	Carol Agler
Charlie Meyer	Help needed	Linda Wagner	Diane Meyer
Volunteers are needed after the meeting to put away tables and chairs.			



**Henry County Retired Teachers Association  
Secretary's Report – September 13, 2021**

The Henry County Retired Teacher Association meeting for September was called to order by Charlotte Shrider. Following the pledge, the president thanked Nan Bretz and volunteers for helping set up. Charlotte then welcomed our guests the four School Superintendents from Henry County: Meyers, Belcher, Biederstedt, and Peters. Tables were dismissed by the year older game shows debuted. Nan Bretz offered the prayer, and the meal was enjoyed by all.

Following the meal, the superintendents were given the microphone to give interesting updates about each district.

**Kelly Meyers-Holgate**

Shared about Adulting 101- how to survive as an adult, School Resource officer teaches students how to act when stopped or approached by officers and Vape Detectors in bathrooms.

**Richie Peters - Liberty Center**

Shared that enrollment continues to rise, the American Reading Company Program is a success, and the Football Field was recently dedicated.

**Josh Biederstedt- Patrick Henry**

Reported that the 1969 High School building has been updated, described the After School Programs, the district hired a social worker and importance of continuing to work on the Social and Mental Health of students.

**Eric Belcher - Napoleon**

Reported they are concentrating on Work Ethic, Mental and Social Health, and the Community Center with a variety of opportunities for the entire community. Substitute teachers are needed.

The business meeting resumed.

**Committee Reports:**

**Foundation** - Chuck Klamer read a statement from Steve Seagrave about Foundation amendments being proposed.

**Legislative** – Chuck Klamer asked the group to read an article in the news about the STRS AUDIT being done by ORTA.

**Community Service** - Jan Schlade reported on Service hours

**Dictionary Project** - Gene Grime - Napoleon and Patrick Henry no longer want dictionaries, Kirk Fruth and Jan Schlade will deliver to Holgate, St. Paul's and St Johns.

**New Business:**

**ORTA Representative** - Carol Wolf was present to give a talk on STRS. Stated there would be more information after this month and also advised to read newspaper reports.

**Nominating Committee** - Members, Renee Weaver, Kim Spiess, Treva Stevens and Teri Witt will present a slate of officers at the November meeting.

Christmas Baskets will be raffled off at the November meeting instead of the 50/50 draw.

Kim Spiess won the \$20.00 for the September 50/50

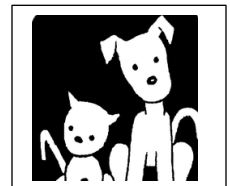
Bev Wittes gave a brief invite to the November meeting featuring presenter Doris Piercefield.

Motion to adjourn was made by Charlene Freppel and Seconded by Jan Baker.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pam Schwiebert, HCRTA Secretary

**HUMANE SOCIETY ITEMS TO BRING**

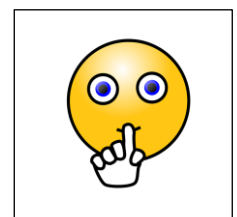
Reminder – We decided to bring donations for the Henry County Humane Society to the remaining 2021 meetings. Here are the things that they need.



- 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)

**CELL PHONES AT MEETINGS**

Please remember to silence your cell phone during the meeting so we do not have interruptions. If you must take a call during the meeting or while our speaker is presenting, please step outside.



## 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.

### From the President’s Pen – Charlotte Shrider

We are winding down our year of meetings, but we have two good programs to enjoy yet! I am excited to hear of the theater adventures of Doris Piercefield at our November meeting. She leads a very interesting life. I hope she tells us a little about working the Gwen Stefani concert this summer. I am hoping we have a good turnout this month. We also will be voting on next year’s officers and making other year end decisions. Come and be a part of making these plans.

I don’t know if I should give in to the hype of doing my Christmas shopping now. Have you started on your list? I am thinking giving the gift of cash may be the way to go this year. I’ll let the grandkids worry about those Cargo ships! I hope to see many of you at our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

## BASKET RAFFLE

Remember to bring some extra cash this month. Instead of our usual 50/50 raffle, there will be a raffle of two Christmas themed baskets. Tickets will be two for \$5.00 or five for \$10.00. The baskets are donated, and the profit all goes to our general fund.



## 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. FACT: We could have had our COLA for years. Statewide pressure on STRS is mounting. Below is the most recent news from Columbus.

**The Statehouse News Bureau | By [Karen Kasler](#)**

Published October 20, 2021 at 4:08 PM EDT

**The state auditor is planning a review of the pension fund for Ohio’s teachers. This comes**

as the board for the State Teachers Retirement System gets together for its monthly meeting Thursday.

**[A letter obtained by the Statehouse News Bureau](#) says the **auditor’s office is considering a special audit based on a report by Ted Siedle**, who was hired by retired teachers questioning STRS’ stated fund performance and management fees.**

**Siedle**, a former SEC asset management lawyer and head of a firm called Benchmark Financial Services, wrote a report that **blasts STRS for lack of transparency and legislative oversight and mismanagement of billions** he says could restore a cost of living adjustment suspended in 2017.

**“One of the key problems that STRS has that they’ve lost the trust of their participants. Schoolteachers don’t trust them anymore,” Siedle said.**

**STRS blasted Siedle’s report as baseless and said it’s handed over 22,000 pages of documents and has also said the pension fund has outperformed the market over the past decade.**

**STRS has confirmed the special audit and said it’s cooperating with the auditor’s office.**

HCRTA MEMBERS - 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/>

## **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>October 2021</b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Sept. 01		<b>starting balance</b>		<b>\$3,606.52</b>
Sept. 15	CK# 1374 City of Napoleon	Oberhaus Park Rent	(\$50.00)	\$3,556.52
	CK# 1375 AKA Designs	Meals	(\$385.00)	\$3,171.52
	CK# 1376 C. Shrider	Postage/newsletters	(\$11.60)	\$3,159.92
Sept. 16	deposit	Meals \$377; 50/50 \$21	\$398.00	\$3,557.92
Sept. 30	Deposit	Interest	\$0.06	\$3,557.98
		<b>Balance =</b>		<b>\$3,557.98</b>
	CD Balance as of Oct. 1, 2021	Henry County Bank		\$1,357.75
Oct. 4		Interest earned	\$3.33	\$1,361.08
		<b>New Balance =</b>		<b>\$1,361.08</b>
Oct. 15		<b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>		<b>\$4,919.06</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).

**Area Superintendents Address HCRTA Members**



PICTURED Left to Right – Area Superintendents

- Erik Belcher - Napoleon
- Richie Peters - Liberty Center
- Kelly Meyers - Holgate
- Josh Biederstedt - Patrick Henry

We received this from **Kelly Meyers**, Holgate Superintendent, after our meeting.

“I just wanted to thank you for inviting me to the meeting Monday evening. I thoroughly enjoyed dinner and speaking with the group. They were a wonderful audience and asked pertinent questions. It was refreshing to hear from educators who genuinely care about the opportunities for our students and community. Please give my best wishes to all for continued good health and fellowship in the year ahead.

Take good care,  
Kelly Meyers”

## Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer!

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!

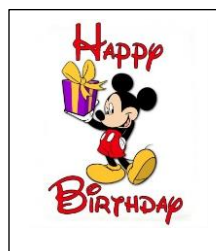
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

\$\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Nov. 05	Bostelman, Jamie	Nov. 27	Barlow, Linda
Nov. 05	Krauskopf, Linda *	Dec. 05	Redd, Betsy
Nov. 07	Jameson, Colleen A	Dec. 08	Aschemeier, Joseph
Nov. 09	Shinn, Delbert P *	Dec. 09	Fetterman, Patricia
Nov. 10	George, James	Dec. 13	Seagrave, Stephen
Nov. 13	Long, Larry E	Dec. 13	Shrider, Charlotte Anne
Nov. 14	Kim Spiess	Dec. 19	Tietje, Lynette Kay
Nov. 15	Ritchey, Gary	Dec. 20	Sasaki, Bonnie
Nov. 20	Krugh, Susan *	Dec. 21	Conklin, Becky
Nov. 22	Hetrick, Lee *	Dec. 24	Rausch, Anne
Nov. 22	Jones, Marlene	Dec. 30	Griffith, Charles E
Nov. 25	Goertz, Cheri		



## **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 BYLAWS AMENDMENTS**

Included with this mailing is a separate handout outlining proposed amendments to the Foundation Bylaws. We are proposing these to (1) clarify how to handle elections and open positions when the Annual Meeting is cancelled due to weather, etc. (2) and to expand the board size since our Foundation has grown. In this regard, if you would be interested in serving on the board contact the secretary, Steve Seagrave (567-225-2933) or [sseagrave@roadrunner.com](mailto:sseagrave@roadrunner.com).

## 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