

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 28, Issue 2

May 2022

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

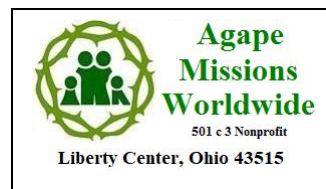
Within five years, HCRTA will move to a position among the top five chapters in Ohio, as it builds upon its legacy of encouraging scholarship, fostering volunteerism, promoting, and protecting retiree interests, supporting advancement of public education in Ohio, developing a proactive membership.

Next Meeting – May 9, 2022

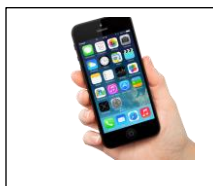
The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, May 9th at 5:30pm. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM - Tahir Masood will tell us about Agape Missions Worldwide. This local (Liberty Center) nonprofit supports two missions, one in Pakistan and one in Haiti. The talk will focus on the Pakistan project to aide culturally Christian children.

MENU - Baked chicken breast in mushroom cream sauce, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, Cole slaw with cranberries and orange, strawberry shortcake, 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 Shridder 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 May 2nd** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 419-599-1356.

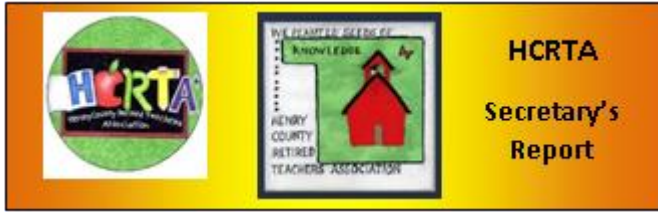
Hosts/Hostesses

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 some of the months. If you would like to volunteer, call Charlotte! If everyone takes a turn it would be great!

May 9th - Meeting Volunteers

More setup volunteers are needed for other meetings. If you can help, call Charlotte. 419-599-1356

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 4:30pm)		Hostess Committee	
Richard Hurst	Terry Witt	Faith Hurst	
Charlie Meyer			
Volunteers are needed after the meeting to put away tables and chairs.			



Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report – March 14, 2022

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March 14, 2022, was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider gave a big thank you to the setup volunteers. She welcomed guest, Robin Rayfield. The average pay scale of a variety of salaries (educator being the lowest) was used to dismiss the tables for lunch.

Following the meal, Robin Rayfield gave a detailed update on the problems at STRS in how they handle our retirement fund. He shared a slide show with some of the information from the forensic audit that ORTA did of the STRS investments and finances using nationally known Edward “Ted” Siedle who specializes in audits of public pension funds. The main issues or problems at STRS include (1) lack of transparency, (2) use of “alternate investments” in private companies, hedge funds, and real estate where expenses and fees can be hidden, (3) a huge investment staff of over 120 “professional investors”, and bonuses up to 125% of their salary being awarded in spite of poor investment results. He urged you to read updates and continue to contact your state representatives and state senators.

The business meeting resumed. The secretary's minutes and treasurer's report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Legislative: Steve Seagrave reported on some of the STRS teacher interest groups campaigning to reform STRS. Steve was one of the seven statewide ORTA members who interviewed the six candidates running for seats on the STRS board. Based on this, he feels the only way we will ever fix the issues at STRS and get our COLA restored is by electing the three reform candidates. It is important to join ORTA, check the Facebook groups *STRS Ohio Watchdogs* and/or *STRS Members Only Forum*, AND get active teachers involved! REMEMBER to VOTE.

Community Service: Tom Jenny, Bev Wittes and Kirk Fruth were recognized with the most hours of the 779 hours reported at the last meeting.

Education Foundation: The annual financial report was published in last newsletter.

Membership: Nan Bretz was not present. New member Jeri Hoellrich was welcomed.

Old Business:

Lifewise Academy will be our financial project this year. Donations will be divided by the three county schools participating in the program. (Napoleon, Liberty Center, and Holgate)

Executive Board met on January 31, 2022, to plan the meals and programs for the year.

New Business:

Nan Bretz needs volunteers to help signing up new members. Sandra Honemann will help but more are needed in each community. Please consider helping.

Jan Schlade won the 50/50 drawing of \$17.00

Diane Buchhop made the motion to adjourn. Dave Conrad seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Schwiebert, HCRTA Secretary

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

For 2022 this is the project we voted to support. Local communities are working towards spreading God's Word to our youth by starting the LifeWise program. This is a program where school children are released from class during the school day to attend Christian instruction off campus. The local programs began in the fall of 2021.



Below is a link to a video that explains the program and how it works. If you itemize your taxes, this is a 501c3 so a check written to LifeWise would be a way to document this tax deduction.

<https://youtu.be/-xz5IKZtwMA>

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.

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 cshrid1@roadrunner.com.

From the President's Pen – Charlotte Shrider

I'm sure glad I don't have a grandchild in a spring sport. I feel for you that have sat out in this weather to cheer on your family. I know the weather will turn soon but I am sure ready for the windows to be open. Fortunately, my hobbies of reading, watching TV and Netflix don't depend on the weather! I want to thank Gene Grime for donating the postage for this month's newsletter and for giving me a lead to track down Bob Baker's new address. We have him located now. Margaret Mueller tried to help with getting Bob's address too. Thanks to both of you! I hope to see many of you at our meeting on the 9th!

Charlotte

DIRECTORY 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.

Bob Baker is now located in a care facility in Cincinnati near family. Robert C. Baker c/o West Chester Assisted Living & Memory Care Center, 6267 Glen Hollow Dr, Liberty Township, OH 45011.

Dolores Zachrich has moved to a new facility. Van Wert Manor, 160 Fox Road, Van West, OH 45491

STRS ELECTION

If you have not yet voted **IT IS IMPORTANT YOU DO SO ASAP**. May 2nd is the deadline for the Election Services Company to **RECEIVE** your vote.

Vote for Elizabeth Jones for the retired teacher opening. She is the reform candidate.

Urge active teachers you know to vote for Steven Foreman and Julie Sellers. They are the reform candidates.

If you have not received your ballot or lost it, call Election Services Company at 866-720-4357 and ask to vote by phone. You can also ask for help to vote online. **DO NOT** vote by mail any more as the ballot likely would not be received in time.

50/50 RAFFLE

Remember to bring some extra cash for our usual 50/50 raffle. The profit all goes to our general fund which is used to cover the rental of our meeting place.



Since the last newsletter, the Henry County Retired Teachers Foundation received over \$500 in donations in memory of Larry Gerken.

- Suzanne Gerken
- Larry Gerken family
- Linda & Bernard Ervin
- Rosemary Pfau
- Marilyn & R.F. Pratt
- Marianne Bentivegna

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

NEWSLETTER COSTS

We would like to have your email address if you have email. That way we can email the newsletter to you and save postage and printing costs. Just email Steve to make the change.

REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

If you were NOT at the March meeting and have not already done so, please add up your volunteer hours since January 1st and email these to Jan.

At the March 9, 2022, meeting there was a total of 779 volunteer hours were

reported so far this year. The top three members recognized at the March meeting were Tom Jenny, Bev Wittes and Kirk Fruth. Also, Jan emailed me to report the total volunteer hours reported for 2021 were 3114.5 hours.

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



HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION				
	Gregg Merrill, Treasurer	Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.	March 30, 2022	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Feb. 1		starting balance		\$3,780.03
Feb. 28	Deposit	Interest	\$0.06	\$3,780.09
Mar. 14	CK# 1386 City of Napoleon	Oberhaus Rental	(\$90.00)	\$3,690.09
	CK# 1387 S. Seagrave	Directory Printing	(\$151.22)	\$3,548.87
	CK# 1388 C. Shrider	Postage for Newsletter	(\$5.80)	\$3,543.07
	CK# 1389 AKA Designs	Meals	(\$363.00)	\$3,180.07
Mar. 15	Deposit	Meals, 50/50 Drawing	\$461.00	\$3,641.07
Mar. 30	Deposit	Interest	\$0.06	\$3,641.13
		Balance =		\$3,641.07
	CD Balance as of Mar. 30	Henry County Bank		\$1,364.42
Mar. 30		BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =		\$5,144.45

HCRT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

The HCRT Foundation met two times during 2021. The January 2021 meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic, and the March 2021 meeting to elect officers was done via Zoom. The organizational meeting for 2021 was held on Tuesday, via Zoom. Officers for 2021 were elected 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 so Karen Maassel was appointed at the March 2021 meeting.

The board members for the year 2021 were: Becky Chamberlin - Agent, Gene Grime - Treasurer, Charles Klamer - President, Jamie Bostelman - Vice-President, Steve Seagrave - Secretary and members Sandy Honemann, Karen Maassel, and Gregg Merrill. Terry Witt acted as Book Grant Chairman. Upon the death of our president, Chuck Klamer, in November, the vice president Jamie Bostelman assumed the office and finished the term of office.

Treasurer Gene Grime provided the 2021 annual financial report, and it was published in the March 2022 newsletter.



The history of the Foundation has been updated with the names of the grant recipients for 2021. Allyssa Jackson (2021 Napoleon) and Callie Seedorf (2020 Patrick Henry) were Griffith Grant Winner. Maxwell Weaver (2019 Liberty Center) was the Karen Brubaker Grant winner. Emma Burkey (2019 Napoleon) was the Lucille and Margaret Sherman Grant winner. Audrey Wade (2020 Napoleon) was the King Grant winner.

The grants awarded were in the amount of \$1500. (The due date for the Griffith Grant is April 6th.) The information for all the grants will be delivered to the four-county high school guidance departments by members of the Foundation board. An invitation to apply for the grants will be sent to the 2021 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 HCRTA 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 60 book grants, totaling \$47,000 since 1998. Contributions to the Foundation may be made any time by sending them to Gene Grime.

Jamie Bostelman, 2021 Foundation President

	<p>We have lost one of our members: Shirlee Mires-Fejes on March 12, 2022</p>	
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Send a Friend a Note of Good Cheer!

Dolores Zachrich, Van Wert Manor, 160 Fox Road, Van West, OH 45491
 Robert C. Baker c/o West Chester Assisted Living & Memory Care Center, 6267 Glen Hollow
 Township, OH 45011
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. At the December meeting we decided to support the **LifeWise Academy**. 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 this worthwhile project!

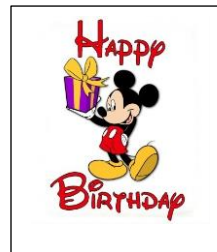
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

\$_____ to be donated to _____

Gregg Merrill
 HCRTA Treasurer
 1500 Thershan Drive
 Napoleon, Ohio 43545

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

May 04	Miller, Janis	July 17	Gerken, Kae
May 06	Ritchey, Cheryl J	July 19	Schink, Nancy C
May 06	Rohrs, Kay *	July 24	Ashenfelter, Rosalie A
May 08	Toepfer, Mary Jill	July 25	Buchhop, Diane
May 15	George, Barbara	July 31	Conrad, David L
May 16	Lyne, Larry B	Aug. 01	Osborn, Jerri
May 17	Baer, Dan	Aug. 02	Joseph, Mary H
May 17	Lammers, Tom *	Aug. 02	Johnson, Lucinda
May 20	Leonard, Carol	Aug. 06	Myrice, Mary Jane
May 25	Cline, Garry	Aug. 07	Krugh, W. Tennyson *
June 03	Witt, Terry	Aug. 10	Schall, Nancy A *
June 04	Haase, George F *	Aug. 11	Shepard, Jan
June 14	Eis, Audrey *	Aug. 13	Agler, Carol
June 15	Weaver, Renee	Aug. 13	Baldwin, Nancy
June 21	Mueller, Margaret L	Aug. 19	Meyer, Diane
June 23	Lilly, Diana T *	Aug. 19	Meyer, James
July 03	Ressler, Duane M	Aug. 21	Krueger, Marlyn
July 04	Lytle, William D	Aug. 21	Rosebrook, Judy
July 04	Stevens, Treva M	Aug. 24	Denny, Gerry L *
July 04	Zachrich, Lawrence	Sep. 04	Schroeder, Jack
July 14	Wesche, Mary Kay *	Sep. 06	Wade, Mary Ann Wade
July 16	Klamer, Linda	Sep. 08	Weaver, Sally J



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, 192 Old Creek Drive, Napoleon, OH 43545.

Make checks payable to “**Henry Co. Retired Teachers Foundation**”.

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