

# 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 28, Issue 5

November 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.

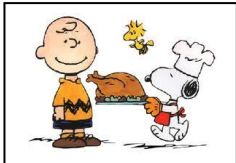
## Next Meeting – November 14, 2022

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, November 14th at 11:30am. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM – Local author, Don Allison will speak about the books he has written. "Hell on Belle Isle: Diary of a Civil War POW" and details life on Richmond's Belle Isle during its time as a Confederate POW camp for Union enlisted men. His second book is "I Met a Ghost at Gettysburg: A Journalist's Journey into the Paranormal." In addition to authoring Civil War and other books, he is a veteran daily newspaper editor, and recipient of numerous Associated Press awards.

MENU— Swiss Steak, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetable, roll and dessert. Bottled water will be provided with packets for different flavorings. Our meal is being prepared by Hill's Restaurant. (See the September newsletter.)

## Meal Reservations



Meal costs are \$15.00 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 \$15.00 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 7th** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 419-599-1356.

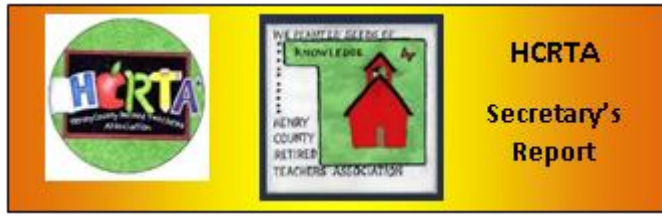
## Hosts/Hostesses

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

## **November 14th - Meeting Volunteers**

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

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 10:30am)		Hostess Committee	
Rich & Faith Hurst	Kirk Fruth	Diane Meyer	Linda Wagner
Charlie Meyer		Pam Schwiebert	
Volunteers are needed after the meeting to put away tables and chairs.			



## Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report – September 12, 2022

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for September 12, 2022, was called to order by President Charlotte Shrider. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Shrider thanked the set up and hostess volunteers. Volunteers to set up for the November meeting and hosts/hostesses are still needed for the December meeting. The order of books from the Bible was used to dismiss the tables for dinner. Following the meal provided by Hill's Restaurant, Bev Wittes introduced the speakers from Lifewise Academy, teachers Krista Behm and Emily Meyer. Students from Kindergarden through Fifth grade are granted release time for Bible/Gospel Based Character Education during the school day with parent permission. Students generally do not miss any new studies of their regular classes or their specials. Students go to Lifewise for 45 minutes once a week. Their classes focus on prayer, Bible stories and Bible verses which highlight positive character traits. Teachers have noticed improvements in students' attitudes toward others and willingness to share what they've learned. Currently, they have 53% participation.

Following the presentation President Shrider called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was approved as corrected and the Treasurer's report was approved as printed in the newsletter.

### Committee Reports

**Community Service:** Phyllis Hesterman was recognized as having the most volunteer hours.

**Legislative:** Steve Seagrave reported that the outgoing STRS representatives voted to gift \$10 million to the investment staff. We will need to continue to be active with the reform groups so we can add another reformer when a STRS board member is voted on in May. Charlotte noted that more information can be found on Facebook under "Ohio STRS Members Only Forum".

**Membership:** Nan Bretz reported that she sent out many letters of invitation, but only received two new members. Charlotte reported that the ORTA membership list for HCRTA is out of date, and she asked Steve to handle sending ORTA the Excel file of membership.

**Webmaster and Newsletter:** Steve noted nothing to report on these.

**Education Foundation:** Patty Hill reported that their next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

**Old Business:**

**Lifewise Academy:** Donations were accepted for our monthly project.

**Catering:** Hill's Restaurant will be our caterer for our next two meetings, November and December.

**Regional Meeting:** Charlotte Shrider and Bev Witte attended the Regional Meeting in Findlay. Every president in attendance gave a report. It was noted that some associations have a board with no president, and they take turns leading the meetings. Some associations give grants to active teachers for their activities or projects. Some groups are now giving Caldecott and Newberry Award winning books to students instead of dictionaries. Charlotte reported that we have a very active group and admirable membership.

### New Business

**Nominating Committee:** President Charlotte Shrider appointed the following 3 people to the nominating committee for a new President and Officers: Steve Seagrave, Terri Witte and Kim Spiess.

Charlotte stated that she will continue to mail the newsletter but give up recording reservations and caterer.

**ORTA:** The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on October 12, at the Doubletree in Columbus.

**November Meeting:** Historical Civil War and Paranormal author and journalist, Don Allison will be the speaker.

**50/50 drawing:** Kirk Fruth won and donated his winnings to the Lifewise Academy.

Dan Baer made a motion to adjourn with Mary Ann Wade seconding the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Schwiebert  
Secretary

### 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](mailto:cshrid1@roadrunner.com).

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

I hope you have been enjoying these beautiful fall days. I think fall is the favorite season of many of us. Of course, the stores are eager to remind us of the holiday season to come. I have even seen Christmas commercials on television already. Let's not skip over Thanksgiving though. There is so much negativity in the world it is easy to get caught up in complaining and bemoaning the state of the country. Surround yourself with positive people, find delight in everyday wonders, be thankful for all that you do have. Spread good cheer and kindness wherever you go. It just might be contagious! Happy Thanksgiving.

I hope to see many of you at our meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>!

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.

## **STRS UPDATE – Steve Seagrave**

The following is from Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director, following the September STRS Board Meeting.

STRS met on September 15, 2022. The meeting was routine, for the most part. It did get a bit interesting near the end of the meeting when several of the 'new board members' made their presence known. In a series of motions, several board members attempted to address the lack of transparency at STRS. Although the motions were defeated (or tabled for discussion later) the point of interest that these motions demonstrated is that change at STRS is inevitable.

The elections of three 'reform minded' candidates in May should have signaled to the STRS management and the remaining STRS board members, that the members are not satisfied with the status quo. Since the May 2022 election, however, the STRS management and the remaining six board members holding on to the current culture at STRS have 'doubled down' on keeping things the way they are at STRS. Matters that are simple and straightforward, such as increasing transparency should be non-controversial, but they are not. For example, one of the motions was to use the camera system in place at STRS to 'live broadcast' the meetings at STRS and then archive these broadcasts on the STRS website. Why would this be controversial? ORTA has broadcasted the meetings live through our YouTube channel or Facebook each month. We use an

iPhone to accomplish this, and it is archived! This would allow active members that are teaching during the meeting to stay abreast of what is taking place at STRS. Another motion that was tabled was moving two meetings per year to a Saturday. This would also allow retirees that work after retirement (more common since the loss of our promised COLA) and active teachers opportunities to virtually attend STRS board meetings. Again, why this would be opposed by the STRS management and board members is unclear to me.

At any rate, the STRS board is comprised of two distinct groups:

- People that want meaningful change at STRS. This group includes the three people just elected to the board in May of 2022 (Steve Foreman, Julie Sellers, and Liz Jones, along with Dr. Rudy Fichtenbaum, and Wade Steen).
- People that are 100% aligned with STRS management (Ms. Corrothers, Ms. Harrington, Mr. Lard, Mr. Hunt, Mr. Roulston, Mr. Price) and want no changes at STRS.

## **GET INVOLVED!**

- WRITE TO STRS
- CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR
- CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
- On Facebook, join the STRS Ohio Watchdogs and the Ohio STRS Member Only Forum

## **REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS**

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

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](mailto:jj Schlade@gmail.com)



HCRTA Community  
Service Hours



We have lost one of our members:  
Charlene Freppel on September 25, 2022



<b>HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION</b>				
	<b>Gregg Merrill, Treasurer</b>	<b>Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.</b>	<b>July 30, 2022</b>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Aug. 1		<b>starting balance</b>		<b>\$4,022.38</b>
Sept. 12	CK# 1393 City of Napoleon	Oberhaus Rental	(\$90.00)	\$3,932.38
Sept. 12	CK# 1394 C. Shrider	Postage	(\$24.00)	\$3,908.38
Sept. 14	Deposit	Meals, 50/50, Lifewise Donations	\$575.00	\$4,483.38
Sept. 16	CK# 1395 Hills Restaurant	Meals	(\$275.00)	\$4,233.38
Sept. 30	Deposit	Interest	\$0.28	\$4,233.66
Oct. 14	Deposit	Lifewise Donation	\$20.00	\$4,253.66
		<b>Balance =</b>		<b>\$4,253.66</b>
	CD Balance	Henry County Bank		<b>\$1,371.71</b>
Oct. 14		Interest	\$5.50	<b>\$1,377.21</b>
Oct. 14		<b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>		<b>\$5,630.87</b>

**FOUNDATION ELECTION** – The next meeting of the Foundation will be January 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at Patty Hill's home. Gregg Merrill's term is expiring, and he will be going off the board so we will need to elect a new member in December. Member terms are for five years. The board meets in January, March, and September.



**SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS** – Two representatives from the local LifeWise program gave a presentation at our meeting and answered questions.

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

Margaret Mueller, 225 S Damascus St, Liberty Center OH 43532  
 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 2021 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!

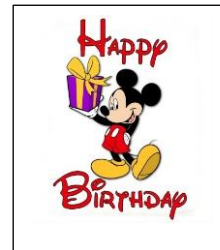
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

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

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/>

**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 part of the rental cost of our meeting place.



## 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