

# 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 6

December 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.

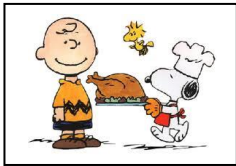
## Next Meeting – December 12, 2022

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, December 12th at 11:30am. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM – PROGRAM – We will have a musical program presented by Bill and Kathy Beck. Their group, “Squeeze Play”, has an entertaining program planned for us.

MENU— Broasted pork chop, baked potato, salad, roll and butter 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 December 5th** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 419-599-1356.

## Hosts/Hostesses

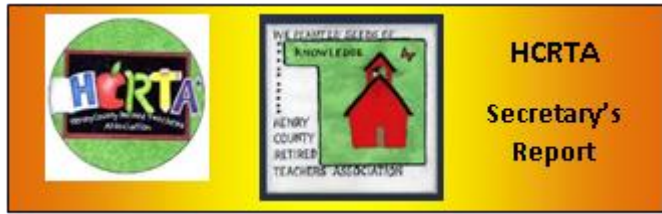
The hosts/hostesses bring a centerpiece for the tables and are responsible for the meal prayer. It can be seasonal or relate to the program topic or it could be a collection or hobby that a member has. Table coverings are provided. We do have openings for some of the months. If you would like to volunteer, call Charlotte! If everyone takes a turn it would be great!

## **December 12th - Meeting Volunteers**

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

| Set Up (Doors unlocked at 10:30am) |             | Hostess Committee |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Steve Seagrave                     | Terry Witt  | Becky Schindler   | Help needed |
| Help needed                        | Help needed | Help needed       | Help needed |

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



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

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for November 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 Charlie Meyer, Rich and Faith Hurst and hostesses Linda Wagner, Diane Meyer, Carol Agler and Pam Schwiebert. Dates of well-known and area newspapers were founded was used to dismiss the tables for lunch.

Following the meal Don Allison, Bryan Times Columnist, gave an interesting talk about how Northwest Ohio was represented in the Civil War.

After a brief break, to look over the presenter's books for sale, President Shrider called the meeting to order.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were approved as printed in the newsletter.

### Committee Reports:

**Community Service:** Larry Zachrich and Phyllis Hesterman were recognized with reporting the most reported volunteer hours.

**Education Foundation:** Patty Hill reported Gregg Merrill's term is expiring at the end of December, and he will be going off the board so we will need to elect a new member in December. Please consider volunteering for this 5-year term.

**Membership Committee:** President Shrider asked for members to consider volunteering to be on the membership committee, the goal being to have a volunteer from each school community.

### Old Business:

**Nominating committee:** Terry Witt stated a slate of candidates will be presented at the December meeting.

**Lifewise Academy:** Greg Merrill reported that the group has donated \$557 dollars to date. These funds and the December donation will be divided between the three schools in the county participating in Lifewise Academy this year.

**Catering:** Hills Restaurant has agreed to December meeting.

### New Business:

**December meeting:** Bill and Cathy Beck with Squeeze play will entertain the group.

**50/50 drawing:** \$20 was won by Rich Hurst.

Diane Buchhop made motion to adjourn with Dick Baldwin 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

To quote Charlotte, the spider from Charlotte's Web, "I will be writing for the last time today." When Bonnie Eddy called me in 2015 and asked me to be President, I never thought I would still be behind the podium in 2022! But it is time to turn over the duties to someone new. I have truly been honored to serve as your President and have enjoyed my time in a leadership role. I want to thank all those who have supported me as members of the executive board and a big thanks to all the reservation callers. Thanks also to Steve Seagrave who has such an eye for detail. He has helped me out tremendously. I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season filled with family, fun and laughter. I hope you are including our December meeting in your holiday plans!

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 a speech to the STRS Board made by Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director, at the October STRS Board Meeting.

Good morning. My name is Robin Rayfield. I am a retired STRS member.

I hate to say I told you so, but in this case the comment is fitting. As I had previously stated, a delay in approving the bonuses paid to the investment staff was in order. Your board colleagues also asked that the bonuses not be approved until the audited numbers were available. As predicted, the actual values available so far indicate that the losses are far greater than estimated at the August meeting.

The truth is that the investment staff, STRS consultants, and everyone in the investment world knew that the valuations submitted for the bonus's payments were too good to be true.

This action is typical and points to the problems with the STRS culture. The staff put their self-interests ahead of the membership. That is why they rushed the bonus payment issue, taking advantage of an accounting gimmick that delays the valuation of these assets. I repeat, the staff and consultants knew that they had not earned the bonuses that were paid. It is as bad as it sounds.

You ignored pleas from the members and your board colleagues to delay the bonus vote until the audited valuations of the alternative investments were available. Shame on the board members that approved these bonuses. You knew better.

Just because the staff asks you to support an issue does not give you a pass on your fiduciary duty. Thanks to board member Wade Steen we all know that ACA does not confirm the accuracy of the inputs, only the arithmetic. Garbage in yields garbage out. Your vote to pay unearned bonuses results in personal liability.

The current leadership at STRS is not looking out for the best interests of the retirement system. Remember, the liability rests with each of you. You need people that you can trust, not what you are receiving at present.

On behalf of the STRS members, I want to know how you intend to get back the money you paid in bonus payments that were unearned. Will the people that received this payment pay it back, will the management pay this money back, or do you intend to pay the money yourselves. That money should go to teachers. The money spent on bonus payments is for benefits, not made-up performance. I don't care how you get it back, just get it back.

NOTES FROM STEVE – For those following events, the six “old” board members are stonewalling efforts of the five reform members to even open a discussion

of investment policy, board governance, and how STRS can do better by its members.

## 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 November 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)

### FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

Board member Gregg Merrill's term ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you would be interested in serving on the Foundation board, please contact Patty Hill (419-579-0015) or Steve Seagrave (567-225-2933).

| Name             | Position           | Voting Member | Year Term Ends   |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Becky Chamberlin | Agent              | Y             | N/A              |
| Gene Grime       | Treasurer          | Y             | N/A              |
| Steve Seagrave   | Secretary          | Y             | N/A              |
| Gregg Merrill    | Member             | Y             | 2022             |
| Jamie Bostelman  | Member             | Y             | 2023             |
| Patty Hill       | President          | Y             | 2024             |
| Janet Aschemeier | Member             | Y             | 2024 (then 2029) |
| Karen Maassel    | Vice President     | Y             | 2025             |
| Kirk Fruth       | Member             | Y             | 2026             |
| Terry Witt       | Grants Chairperson | N             | N/A              |

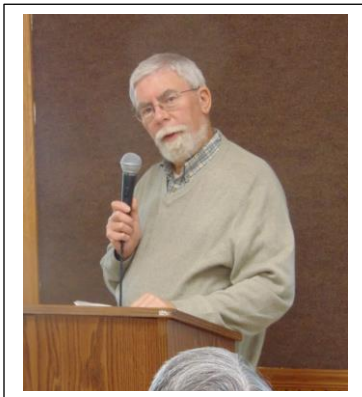


We have lost one of our members:  
Fred Church on November 14, 2022



### HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

| Gregg Merrill, Treasurer |                           | Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.                      |            | Nov. 30, 2022     |  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|-------------------|--|
| Date                     | Ck #/payee                | Description                                      | Amount     | Balance           |  |
| Nov. 1                   |                           | <b>starting balance</b>                          |            | <b>\$4,253.66</b> |  |
| Nov. 14                  | CK# 1396 City of Napoleon | Oberhaus Rental                                  | (\$90.00)  | \$4,163.66        |  |
| Nov. 14                  | Deposit                   | LifeWise Donation                                | \$20.00    | \$4,183.66        |  |
| Nov. 14                  | CK# 1397 Don Allison      | Civil War Presenter                              | (\$100.00) | \$4,083.66        |  |
| Nov. 14                  | CK# 1398 Hills Restaurant | Meals  | (\$396.00) | \$3,687.66        |  |
| Nov. 15                  | Deposit                   | Meals \$435, 50/50 \$30, Lifewise Donations \$84 | \$549.00   | \$4,236.66        |  |
| Nov. 30                  | Deposit                   | Interest   | \$0.08     | \$4,236.74        |  |
|                          |                           | <b>Balance =</b>                                 |            | <b>\$4,236.74</b> |  |
| Nov. 30                  | CD Balance                | Henry County Bank                                |            | <b>\$1,377.21</b> |  |
| Nov. 30                  |                           | <b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>                    |            | <b>\$5,613.91</b> |  |



**NOVEMBER SPEAKER** – Members of the Henry County Retired Teachers Association were entertained recently by Don Allison, author of several books and former editor and senior editor of the *Bryan Times*. A lifetime resident of Williams County, Allison graduated from Stryker High School in 1976 and got his Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from the University of Toledo in 1980. Allison shared stories of the Civil War, including the name of William Knight of Stryker, a steam locomotive engineer, who joined Andrew’s Raiders, a group who posed as Confederate sympathizers (who were spies) and commandeered the Confederate Train “The General” and took it northward toward Chattanooga, doing as much damage as possible as they went. Confederates eventually captured the raiders and executed several as spies. Some (including Knight) were able to escape and ere later the first to be awarded the Medal of Honor of Congress for their actions.

### ORTA MEMBERSHIP - TIME TO RENEW?

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\$30 Annual Dues Enclosed

Current Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you!*

Need to renew your dues? Just fill out this form and send in your payment to:

**250 East Wilson Bridge Road Ste. 150  
c/o Mia McLean, Membership  
Worthington, OH 43085**



\*\*Remember, the date we process your payment is your new due date for the following year (i.e. 06/20/20, new due date is 06/20/21). if you pay your ORTA dues to your local chapter, your payment is applied upon receipt to our office.

## 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!

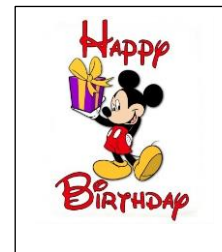
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

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

|         |                               |         |                        |
|---------|-------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Dec. 05 | Redd, Betsy                   | Jan. 31 | Hesterman, Phyllis     |
| Dec. 08 | Aschemeier, Joseph            | Feb. 06 | Hill, Patricia         |
| Dec. 09 | Fetterman, Patricia           | Feb. 09 | Nelson, Nancy          |
| Dec. 13 | Seagrave, Stephen             | Feb. 12 | Hockman, Jan *         |
| Dec. 13 | Shrider, Charlotte Anne       | Feb. 12 | Rohrs, Teresa L        |
| Dec. 19 | Tietje, Lynette Kay           | Feb. 15 | Curtis, Beverly        |
| Dec. 20 | Sasaki, Bonnie                | Feb. 15 | Feehan, Deb            |
| Dec. 21 | Conklin, Becky                | Feb. 15 | Honemann, Sandra R     |
| Dec. 24 | Rausch, Anne                  | Feb. 15 | Mohr, Sue A *          |
| Dec. 30 | Griffith, Charles E           | Feb. 17 | Buehrer, Donna L       |
| Jan. 06 | Snider, Jim *                 | Feb. 18 | Hall, LeAnn            |
| Jan. 09 | Vocke, Lawrence               | Feb. 18 | Northcutt, Heather S * |
| Jan. 10 | Stein, Karen                  | Feb. 23 | Anderson, Morten *     |
| Jan. 11 | Fetterman, Max                | Feb. 23 | Benedict, Joyce E *    |
| Jan. 15 | Frederick, Janet E *          | Feb. 23 | Hurst, Faith           |
| Jan. 15 | Meyer, Charles H              | Feb. 23 | Kern, Thomas           |
| Jan. 18 | Follett, David                | Feb. 28 | Zachrich Dolores *     |
| Jan. 19 | Walker, Barb                  | Mar. 01 | Joseph, Robert **      |
| Jan. 23 | Schindler, Becky              | Mar. 02 | Milius, Kevin          |
| Jan. 24 | Neuenschwander,<br>Charlene * | Mar. 03 | Steed, Joan            |
| Jan. 24 | Schwiebert, Pamela            | Mar. 03 | Warnimont, Bev         |
| Jan. 26 | Behnfeldt, Peg *              | Mar. 10 | Baldwin, Richard Neil  |



## 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/>

*In Loving  
Memory*



The Foundation received a donation from Becky Chamberlin in memory of Charlene Freppel.

## 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