

# 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 29, Issue 1

March 2023

## 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 – March 13, 2023

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, March 13th at 11:30am. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM – Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of ORTA, will join us to give an update on ORTA services and answer questions on the continuing efforts to get STRS to be transparent about investments and efforts to get the promised COLA reinstated.

MENU— Roast beef and dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll & butter, cake. Bottled water will be provided with packets for different flavorings. Our meal is being prepared by Hill’s Restaurant.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER



The people who contact members before each meeting to gather reservation numbers ensure that we have a correct count for the caterer in plenty of time. Please help your caller (emailer) by responding to them by the deadline, with a **yes or no reply**. That way, they know that their message to you was received. Before this new program year began, the caller lists were reviewed and updated, with some names removed if contact hasn’t been made for some time. A few names were moved to a different call list, to even out the numbers for each person, so be sure to check your email carefully in case you are receiving the message from a different sender.

## 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. **Linda Klammer** 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 March 6th** or contact Linda directly if you cannot reach your caller. 330-671-8252.

## Hosts/Hostesses

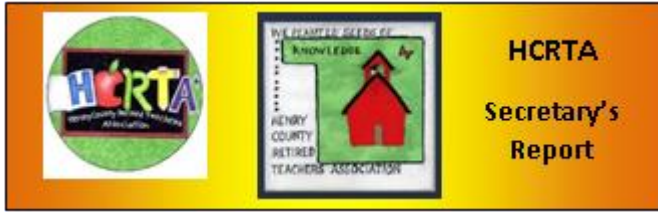
The hosts/hostesses bring a centerpiece for the tables and are responsible for the meal prayer. It can be seasonal or relate to the program topic or it could be a collection or hobby that a member has. Table coverings are provided. We do have openings for some of the months. If you would like to volunteer,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

## **March 13th - Meeting Volunteers**

More volunteers are needed. If you can help, call Bev. 419-256-6142

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 10:30am)		Hostess Committee	
<b>Gregg Merrill</b>	<b>Charlie Meyer</b>	<b>Sandy Honemann</b>	<b>PH Mini Pals</b>
<b>Help needed</b>	<b>Help needed</b>	<b>Help needed</b>	<b>Help needed</b>

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



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

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for December 12, 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, Kirk Fruth, Larry Zachrich, Terry Witt for setting up, and to Becky Schindler for being hostess.

Following the meal, Bill and Cathy Beck of "Squeeze Play" entertained the group with holiday music.

President Shrider called the meeting to order.

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

### **Committee Reports:**

**Community Service:** Bev Wittes and Patty Hill were recognized with reporting the most reported volunteer hours.

**Education Foundation:** Diane Meyer was recommended for a term on the Education Foundation. Charlie Meyer made a motion to nominate Diane Meyer for the term ending in 2027 and Terry Witt seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

**Membership Committee:** Rosalie Ashenfelter made motion for Steve Seagrave to take over the position as chairperson with Rosemary Pfau seconding the motion. Motion passed.

**Report from Carole Wolfe:** ORTA wants to include active teachers in the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. This is under discussion. Members should let Carole know if they are not receiving ORTA emails.

**Legislative:** Steve Seagrave reported that the STRS Board is still not listening to membership and seems to not have learned from the last election. More new reformer board members need to be elected to STRS.

### **Old Business:**

**Meetings/Catering:** President Charlotte reported that Oberhaus Park had been secured for the 2023 year. Members voted on hiring Hills Restaurant to continue to provide the meals.

**Designated Charity:** Rosemary Pfau made a motion and Steve Seagrave seconded to continue to support Lifewise Academy in 2023. The motion passed.

**Elections:** Terry Witt presented 2023 slate of officers. Motion was made and seconded to accept the list. Motion passed. The following were elected. President: Bev Wittes; Vice President: Charlie Meyer; They will share leadership responsibilities. Treasurer: Greg Merrill; Assistant Treasurer: Duane Ressler; Secretary: Pam Schwiebert; Assistant Secretary: Diane Meyer; Community Service Chair: Jan Schlade; and Legislative Chair: Steve Seagrave.

Charlotte Shrider was thanked for her many years of serving as president of the group with a large round of applause.

50/50 drawing: \$24 Was won by Pam Schwiebert.

Faith Hurst made motion to adjourn. Jan Schlade seconded 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 Linda Klamer at 330-671-8252 or email her at [LKlamer51@yahoo.com](mailto:LKlamer51@yahoo.com).

### **From the President's Pen – Bev Wittes**

A "New Year" on the calendar always begins January first. A "New Year" when we were teaching began in September (or late August). But now that we are members of Henry County Retired Teachers, our "New Year" of programs begins with our March meeting!



The program committee, chaired by Vice President Charlie Meyer, has scheduled some interesting and fun meetings this year, so be sure to set aside those dates and times.

At our Executive meeting in January, we discussed several items, among them the need to bolster our membership numbers. All of us can help with this

objective by inviting friends to attend meetings and share with them the fun and fellowship that membership brings! We are always looking for more ideas to attract new members, so please don't be shy to make suggestions at any time.

Just remember, you can always notify Linda Klamer, who has assumed the duty of call chairman, if you would like to attend a meeting and have not been contacted by a caller. Her phone number and email address are in the directory that was emailed to each member. We want to see you at every meeting!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and who knows, some lucky leprechauns may visit too!

Bev

### **STRS UPDATE – Steve Seagrave**

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 December meeting and have not already done so, please add up your volunteer hours since January 1st and email these to Jan or bring them to the next meeting.** For

2022 there was a total of 3042.5

volunteer hours were reported. The top three members for 2022 were Bev Wittes, Tom Jenny, and Phyllis Hesterman.

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)

### **2023 PROGRAMS**

- **March 13** – **Robin Rayfield**, Executive Director of ORTA
- **May 8** - **Don Allison** from Bryan, Ohio will discuss the Underground Railroad of NW Ohio
- **July 10** - **Book grant winners** and their families will be guests at our dinner. We will also hear a presentation on Sauder Village.
- **September 11** – We will have a panel interview of three area cross country coaches.
- **November 13** Morgan Parcher, Henry County 4H Agent will be our guest speaker.
- **December 11** – **Christmas Party** – Bring a “White Elephant” gift (no expensive gifts) for a fun-filled gift exchange. Tune up your musical ear and compete for big prizes as you attempt to identify Christmas Carols and bring your singing voices as we conclude the year singing a couple of your favorite Carols.

### **2023 DIRECTORY**

The new directory has been emailed to those members with an email address. A small number of paper copies will be available for \$5 each at the next meeting. If your address, phone, or email changes please be sure to notify our newsletter editor, Steve Seagrave so we can be sure the directory gets updated, and you get association meeting and program information.

### **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.



### **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.

### **MISSING MEMBER INFORMATION**

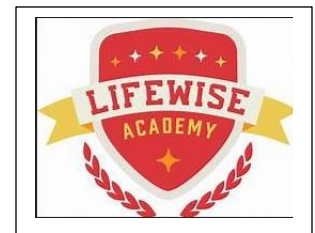
We have lost track of one of our members. Sue Mohr has moved to a different nursing home, but I have no information. If someone has this and can share, please contact me. Steve

<b>HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION</b>					
	<b>Gregg Merrill, Treasurer</b>	<b>Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.</b>	<b>Nov. 30, 2022</b>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>	
Jan. 1		<b>starting balance</b>		<b>\$3,949.66</b>	
Feb. 1	Deposit	Interest	\$0.03	\$3,949.69	
Feb. 7	CK# 1406	LifeWise Donation – Liberty Center	(\$267.00)	\$3,682.69	
		<b>Balance =</b>		<b>\$3,682.69</b>	
Dec. 30	CD Balance	Civista County Bank		<b>\$1,377.21</b>	
Jan. 1	Deposit	Interest	\$7.06	<b>\$1,384.27</b>	
Jan. 31		<b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>		<b>\$5,066.96</b>	

<b>HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' FOUNDATION – Gene Grime, Treasurer</b>					<b>2022 year-end report on fund totals</b>		
	<b>Checking</b>	<b>CD's</b>	<b>Invesco</b>	<b>Annuity</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1-11-2023</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>12/31/2022</b>		<b>(approx..</b>	<b>Funds</b>	<b>(guaranteed</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>withdrawal</b>	<b>1-11-2023</b>
		<b>values)</b>		<b>principal)</b>	<b>annuity</b>	<b>from</b>	
<b>SHERMAN FUNDS</b>	\$151.24	\$9,915.80		\$14,448.61	11.13%	\$774.16	\$25,289.81
<b>GRIFFITH FUNDS</b>	\$705.57	\$6,348.50		\$14,448.61	11.13%	\$774.16	\$22,276.84
<b>KING FUNDS</b>	\$1,100.92	\$0.00	\$6,630.76	\$10,164.65	7.83%	\$544.63	\$18,440.96
<b>BRUBAKER FUNDS</b>	\$708.73	\$21,103.85		\$90,754.92	69.91%	\$4,862.68	\$117,430.18
<b>TOTALS =</b>	<b>\$2,666.46</b>	<b>\$37,368.15</b>	<b>\$6,630.76</b>	<b>\$129,816.79</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$6,955.63</b>	<b>\$183,437.79</b>

### **LIFEWISE ACADEMY**

For 2023 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. In 2022 the HCRTA donated a total of \$800 to this project. Well done!



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>

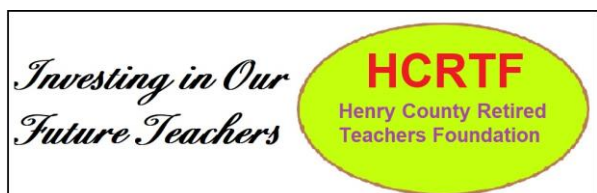


The microphone passes!

### **Thank You Charlotte!**

Charlotte Shrider served us for eight years as our president. We wish to express our appreciation for her willingness to serve.

Pictured at left, since there is no gavel, Charlotte passes the microphone to incoming president Bev Wittes.





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

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!

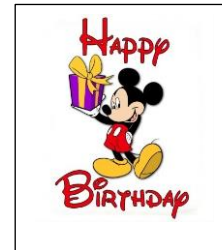
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

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

Mar. 03	Steed, Joan	Apr. 04	Fruth, Kirk
Mar. 03	Warnimont, Bev	Apr. 04	Funchion, Peg *
Mar. 10	Baldwin, Richard Neil	Apr. 06	Shafer, Ann *
Mar. 12	Maassel, Karen	Apr. 08	Hurst, Sue Ann
Mar. 13	Behrman, Walter	Apr. 13	Holzer, Mildred
Mar. 13	Guelde, Deb	Apr. 21	Leigh Anne Kraft
Mar. 20	Baker, Bob	Apr. 22	Bretz, Nan
Mar. 22	Sasaki, Laryce M *	Apr. 29	Chamberlin, Becky
Mar. 23	Utz, Rick L *	Apr. 29	Schlade, Janice
Mar. 23	Williams, Shirley J	May 04	Miller, Janis
Mar. 30	Wagner, Linda M	May 06	Ritchey, Cheryl J
Apr. 01	Grime, J. Gene	May 06	Rohrs, Kay *
Apr. 01	Rettig, Roland ***	May 08	Toepfer, Mary Jill



**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