

# 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 2

May 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 – May 8, 2023

The next meeting of HCRTA will be Monday, May 8th at 5:30pm. As usual the meeting will be held at Oberhaus Park in Napoleon.

PROGRAM – Don Allison from Bryan, Ohio will discuss the Underground Railroad of NW Ohio and the roles Ohio citizens played as supporters or opponents of slavery during the era.

MENU— The menu for the May meal will be broasted Chicken, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, 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 Klamer** 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 1st** or contact Linda directly if you cannot reach your caller. 330-671-8252.

## Hosts/Hostesses

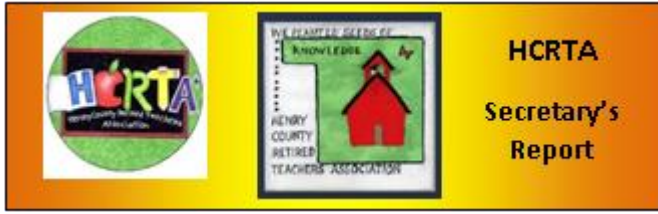
The hosts/hostesses bring a centerpiece for the tables and are responsible for the meal prayer. It can be seasonal or relate to the program topic or it could be a collection or hobby that a member has. Table coverings are provided. We do have openings for some of the months. If you would like to volunteer,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

## **May 8th - Meeting Volunteers**

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

Set Up (Doors unlocked at 4:30pm)		Hostess Committee	
Rich Hurst	Charlie Meyer	Faith Hurst	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 – March 13, 2023

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for March 13, 2023, was called to order by President Bev Wittes. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Wittes thanked the setup volunteers Charlie Meyer and Greg Merrill and Bev Wittes Mini Patriots and Sandra Honemann for hosting.

Following the meal, Robin Rayfield Executive director or ORTA updated the group on what was happening at STRS and how inept the current leadership is. He also stressed how important it is to get active teachers involved so they can vote for leadership that will be capable of representing teachers and reform what is broken.

President Bev Wittes then called the meeting to order.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were printed in the newsletter. A motion to approve them by Rosalee Ashenfelter and seconded by Terry Witt was passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Courtesy South:** Prayers asked for Sandy Honemann as she cares for ill husband.

**Courtesy North:** Bev Curtis is recuperating at home. Mary Jane Myrice has been ill.

**Community Service:** Bev Wittes and Phyllis Hesterman were recognized for the most reported volunteer hours.

**Education Foundation:** Patty Hill read Annual Foundation Report to the members.

**Historian:** Faith Hurst reminded members to give any articles seen to her at the next meeting.

### **Old Business:**

LifeWise will continue to be our designated charity for the 2023 year. All Henry County schools are participating this year.

Charlie Meyer has volunteered to be an assistant helping Steve Seagrave with the web site.

### **New Business:**

The 2023 Host/Hostess Volunteer sign-up sheet was passed around. Please see Bev Wittes if you would be willing to help with hosting or setting up.

If you have ideas to promote attendance and new membership contact Charlie Meyer or Bev Wittes.

The Executive Committee decided to discontinue the dictionary project due to lack of school interest. The Retirement Planning and Informative Services committees have been put on hold until membership shows a need.

Vice President Charlie Meyer announced Don Allison will be at the May meeting to present information about the importance of the Underground Railroad in Northwest Ohio.

50/50 drawing: Charlie Meyer won the door prize.

Karen Maassel made motion to adjourn. Rosemary Pfau 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**

April and May, the months when Spring Fever hits (although sometimes in Ohio, Winter tries to sneak in a few extra turns) and the rush to end the school year is on in full force! Teachers and kids eagerly look forward to summer, when hectic schedules are replaced by less hurried days and more time for relaxation.

But before the lazy, hazy days of summer can begin, there are graduations to celebrate, awards to be presented and classroom successes to look back on with pride. There are field days, with games and races to be won and field trips to places of interest and fun. There are musicals to attend and spring sports to cheer on. And there are more serious things to tend to, such as year-end testing and squeezing in every bit of learning time that is available.

I hope that you have the chance to celebrate all these Spring flings with teachers and kids that you know and love—enjoy this busy time of the year!

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. The election of a new “active” member this month will hopefully change that. This is an uphill struggle as the OEA has poured thousands of dollars into mailings and robocalls and a campaign to re-elect Arthur Lard. He is the current board member who voted AGAINST the one-time COLA last year but is now campaigning that STRS did a great job in approving it!

Regardless of how the election turns out, we all need to keep active in spreading the word till ALL the board members opposing reform are replaced.

### **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 March 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 2023 we had 509

hours reported through March. Top reported were Patty Hill and Gene Grime. 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)

### **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 it, please contact me. Steve

### **2023 PROGRAMS**

- **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.

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Since the 2023 directory was published three members have notified me of changes in their email addresses. - Steve

Jan Hockman - [JanHockman4@gmail.com](mailto:JanHockman4@gmail.com)

Susie Krugh - [wkrugh@yahoo.com](mailto:wkrugh@yahoo.com)

Tenny Krugh - [wtkrugh@icloud.com](mailto:wtkrugh@icloud.com)

<b>HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION</b>				
	<b>Gregg Merrill, Treasurer</b>	<b>Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.</b>	<b>April 1, 2023</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Ck #/payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>
3/1/23		<b>starting balance</b>		<b>\$3,682.28</b>
3/13/23	CK #1407 S. Seagrave	2023 Directory printing	(\$191.98)	\$3,490.30
3/13/23	CK #1408 Napoleon City	Rental of Shelter at Park	(\$90.00)	\$3,400.30
3/13/23	CK #1409 Hill's	Meal Costs	(\$320.00)	\$3,080.30
3/13/23	CK #1410 Shrider	Stamps for Newsletter Mailings	(\$37.80)	\$3,042.50
3/16/23	Deposit	Foundation paid for Rental (annual mtg)	\$90.00	\$3,132.50
3/16/23	Deposit	Meal, 50/50, LifeWise donations	\$549.00	\$3,681.50
3/16/23	Deposit	Seagrave meal	\$15.00	\$3,696.50
		<b>Balance =</b>		<b>\$3,696.50</b>
1/31/23	CD Balance	Civista County Bank		<b>\$1,384.27</b>
	Deposit	Interest	\$7.86	<b>\$1,392.13</b>
4/1/23		<b>BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =</b>		<b>\$5,088.63</b>

### **HCRT FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT for 2022**

The Henry County Retired Teachers Foundation met three times in the year 2022. The first two meetings Jamie Bostelman was the President after taking over due to the untimely death of Chuck Klamer. At the January meeting, Patty Hill was appointed to fill the remainder of the open term for Chuck Klamer. Terry Witt was appointed Grants Chairperson. New members Janet Aschemeier (2024), Kirk Fruth (2026) and Larry Zachrich (2026) took their positions on the board.

At the March meeting election of officers was done with the following results. President - Patty Hill; Vice-President - Karen Maassel; Secretary - Steve Seagrave; Treasurer - Gene Grime

The Board Members for this year as follows: Becky Chamberlain - Agent, Gene Grime - Treasurer, Steve Seagrave - Secretary, Gregg Merrill - Member, Kirk Fruth - Member, Jamie Bostelman - Member, Patty Hill - President, Karen Maassel - Vice-President, Larry Zachrich - Member, Janet Aschemeier - Member, Terry Witt - Grants Chairperson.

During this meeting Gene Grime presented the Financial Report. It detailed current funds and CD's for all four book grant funds. The balance in the checking account at that time was \$9,775.46. This is enough to cover all upcoming book grants. In April of this year a financial audit of the books was done by Kathy Hoover. All records were deemed correct and balanced to date. In November of 2022 Gene Grime reached out to inform me that he was cashing in two CD's (worth about a combined \$10,000) which were earning .15 and 2 percent. We incurred a penalty of \$7.60 and \$9.29 by the early withdrawal. He then reinvested the remaining funds into two CD's paying 2.5 and 3 percent. The annual interest on these two CD's will be \$114 and \$155.

The Book Grant Recipients for this year were Miranda Bachman - Griffith Family Book Grant, Callie Seedorf - Griffith Family Book Grant, Alyssa Jackson - King Book Grant, Max Weaver - Lucille and Margaret Sherman book Grant, Emma Burkey - Karen Brubaker Book Grant. Each grant was for \$1500. The grants were delivered to each of the four high schools in the county as well as Four County Career Center. Grant applications were read by Terry, Karen and Patty.

At the September meeting, the Foundation decided this year to add Drama to the list of activities the students can note for their involvement. We also discussed how to get the word out about our grants and doing a public service announcement on the radio was one idea. These grants do not seem to be highly sought after, so getting the word out about them is important.

The Foundation has awarded 65 book grants, totaling \$54,500.00 since 1998. Contributions to the Foundation may be made at any time by sending your money to Gene Grime. Patty Hill – 2022 President

**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 2022 meeting we decided to continue support for 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!

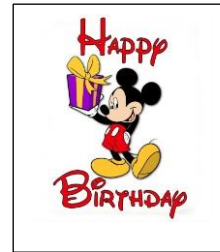
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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	June 03	Witt, Terry
May 06	Ritchey, Cheryl J	June 04	Haase, George F *
May 06	Rohrs, Kay *	June 14	Eis, Audrey *
May 08	Toepfer, Mary Jill	June 15	Weaver, Renee
May 15	George, Barbara	June 21	Mueller, Margaret L
May 16	Lyne, Larry B	June 23	Lilly, Diana T *
May 17	Baer, Dan	July 03	Ressler, Duane M
May 17	Lammers, Tom *	July 04	Lytle, William D
May 20	Leonard, Carol	July 04	Stevens, Treva M
May 25	Cline, Garry	July 04	Zachrich, Lawrence



**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/>



Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of the *Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association* updated members on efforts to reform STRS.

*In Loving Memory*



Robin Rayfield donated \$15 to our foundation.

## 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