

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 29, Issue 5

November 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.

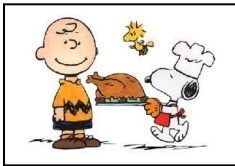
Next Meeting – November 13, 2023

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

PROGRAM – Morgan Parcher, Henry County 4H Agent will be our guest speaker and will share with us the activities the youth of our county are enjoying through 4H.

MENU— Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, corn, salad, and dessert. Bottled water will be provided with packets for different flavorings.

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. 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. 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 November 6th** or contact her directly if you cannot reach your caller. 330-671-8252.

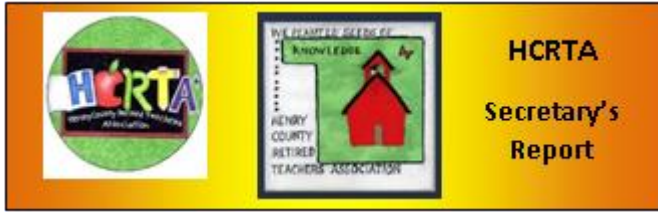
Hosts/Hostesses

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. Members of the executive board have signed up for some of the months. If you would like to volunteer, call Bev! If everyone takes a turn it would be great!

November 13th - Meeting Volunteers

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

Set Up		Hostess Committee		
Janice Rettig	Roland Rettig	Patty Hill	Diane Meyer	Linda Wagner
Help Needed	Help Needed	Renee Weaver	Pam Schwiebert	
Volunteers are needed after the meeting to put away tables and chairs.				



Henry County Retired Teachers Association Secretary's Report – September 11, 2023

The Henry County Retired Teachers Association meeting for September was called to order by President Bev Wittes. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer, President Bev recognized the host/hostess committee: Charlotte Shrider and Jan Schlade. as well as the setup volunteers Terry Witt and Charlie Meyer. The tables were dismissed by rolling dice for places.

Following the meal, Charlie Meyer introduced the speakers Cross-country Coaches Tim Atkinson and Kenny Barnes. Mr. Barnes brought along runners Makayla and Gracie to answer the group's questions about the sport.

President Wittes opened the meeting. The treasurer and secretary's report were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Courtesy- Phyllis Hesterman is home and doing well after a fall.

Community Service- Jan Schalde recognized Gene Grime and Bev Phillips as the top volunteers.

Legislative/Membership- Steve Seagrave reported next spring is an important time for change with efforts to reform STRS with the next election of a STRS board member. WATCH for it. Spread the word about reform especially to active teachers you know.

Old Business:

Brochures to promote membership are ready and on the tables for members to share with retired and actively working teachers.

Back to school boxes filled and will be delivered to the respective schools.

New Business:

Volunteers needed for 2024 nominations committee. Bev Wittes, Charlie Meyer, and Greg Merrill have all volunteered to serve as officers another year. A secretary and assistant secretary will be needed. Faith Hurst volunteered for the assistant secretary position. Carol Agler, Nan Bretz and Bev Wittes will serve on the nominations committee.

A Foundation member will be needed to replace the member whose term is ending. The name will be presented at the December Meeting. If interested contact Patty Hill.

Please reach out to Steve Seagrave or Bev Wittes if you have changes or are aware of changes that need to be made in the association's directory.

Charlie Meyer announced that the November 13th meeting will be at 11:30am. The speaker for the lunch meeting will be Morgan Parcher. Morgan works as the Extension Educator- 4-H Youth Development.

No 50/50.

Steve Seagrave made a motion to adjourn. Charlotte Shrider seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Schwiebert, HCRTA Secretary

From the President's Pen – Bev Wittes

I love the fall season---bright and beautiful leaves in the trees, crisp cool weather, watching the farmers gather the harvest, Halloween fun and turkey dinners to look forward to coming soon. The other seasons all have their perks, but nothing beats cuddling in a warm sweater with my cat on my lap, secure in the knowledge that mowing season is coming to an end! (Not my favorite job, can you tell? My new John Deere makes the task tolerable, but I won't be sad when I can spend more time crafting than mowing!)

We are looking forward to hearing from our speaker for the November meeting, Morgan Parcher, Henry Co. 4-H Agent. I am sure she will have many new and exciting projects to tell us about. 4-H has a rich history in Ohio and I know that many of our members probably participated themselves, as members, advisors or possibly both. It will be interesting to hear where the program is headed in the future.

Have fun with Halloween decorating and the trick-or-treaters coming your way soon, looking forward to seeing you at the November meeting!

Bev

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.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your address, phone, or email changes please be sure to notify our membership chairperson, Steve Seagrave so we can be sure the directory gets updated, and you get association meeting and program information.

STRS UPDATE – Steve Seagrave

Ohio court is the latest battleground in our fight to bring common-sense reform and accountability.



ORTA has established a Pension Defense Fund to ensure it has the legal and professional resources necessary to continue its fight for pro-teacher policies and the reinstatement of pro-reform STRS board member Wade Steen.

Please consider a contribution of \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or even more - every dollar will be critical in this fight to take back our pension system.

In his more than seven years on the STRS board, Wade Steen has been an advocate for Ohio educators by fighting for transparency, accountability and change.

He uncovered millions in hidden fees paid to Wall Street hedge funds and fought against unearned "performance" bonuses for STRS staff. STRS is broken.

Help us fight back by supporting board members like Wade Steen who are trying to fix it.

GET INVOLVED!

- WRITE TO STRS
- CONTACT YOUR STATE SENATOR
- CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
- JOIN ORTA

- CONTRIBUTE TO THE PENSION DEFENSE FUND

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.



REPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS

If you were NOT at the September meeting and have not already done so, please add up your volunteer hours and email these to Jan or bring them to the next meeting.

HCRTA Community
Service Hours

We had a total of 363 hours for September. The top two were Bev Wittes with 90 hours and Steve Seagrave with 42 hours. If you miss a meeting, just email your numbers to Jan!

jj Schlade@gmail.com

FOUNDATION ELECTION

Jamie Bostelman will be going off the board so we will need to elect a new member in December. If you are interested in serving, contact Patty Hill. The board meets three times per year to handle business.



Since the last newsletter, the Henry County Retired Teachers Foundation received a donation from Marlene Jones in memory of Mary Jane Myrice.

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



We have lost one of our members:
Mary Jane Myrice on August 8, 2023



HENRY COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION				
	Gregg Merrill, Treasurer	Duane Ressler, Asst. Treas.	October 16, 2023	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Ck #/payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Aug. 3		starting balance		\$3,824.74
Aug. 4	Civista Bank	Service Charge	(\$10.00)	\$3,814.74
Sept. 11	Ck # 1417 City of Napoleon	Rental Fee	(\$90.00)	\$3,724.74
Sept. 11	Ck # 1418 Steve Seagrave	Printing Directories	(\$74.93)	\$3,649.81
Sept. 11	Ck # 1419 Hill's Restaurant	Meals	(\$350.00)	\$3,299.81
Sept. 14	Deposit	meals, Lifewise donations	\$520.00	\$3,819.81
Oct. 1	Civista Bank	Interest	\$0.21	\$3,820.02
Oct. 4	Civista Bank	Refund two service changes	\$20.00	\$3,840.02
Oct. 4		Balance =		\$3,840.02
	CD Balance as of Oct. 16	Henry County Bank (Interest)	\$5.81	\$1,409.40
Oct. 16		BALANCE ALL ACCOUNTS =		\$5,249.42



ORTA is part of a coalition of groups seeking to reform STRS in order to restore the COLA for retired teachers and return to the fully funded retirement at 30 years for active teachers.

The STRS Ohio Watchdogs is one of our partner organizations. It is a grassroots organization of teachers in Ohio advocating for prudent and transparent management of STRS Ohio.

Visit their website: <https://www.strsohiowatchdogs.com>

Join their Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/STRSOhioWatchdogs>

Follow them on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/strsohwatchdogs>

Contact them: strsohiowatchdogs@gmail.com

Join the Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association: <https://www.orta.org>

Join the Ohio STRS Member Only Forum:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/OhioSTRSMemberOnlyForum>

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 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!

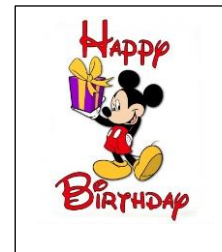
Enclosed is a check for my donation to support this cause.

\$ _____ 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.
- Contribute to the Pension Defense Fund

<http://www.orta.org/>



Cross Country Speakers

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