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Washington County Retired Teachers Association

An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

January 2012

"The summer hath his joys,
And winter his delights...."

Hello, Retired Teachers, and Happy New Year. When I was a teenager in the 1950's, the new century seemed far in the future. And now the first decade of that "new" century has come and gone, plus a little bit. It's been a while since I was a teenager, and more things than I could ever have imagined or believed have come to pass—some wonderful and some I could do without.

As I write this in mid-January, I'm pondering the (so far) mild weather we've had this late fall and early winter. I hope that doesn't mean Armageddon in February, although I think an Alberta Clipper or two would perhaps be a good thing to kill some germs and help control the insect population.

Regardless of the weather, I hope you can appear at the Lafayette Hotel Wednesday, February 8, for lunch. It's worth the price of admission to see how Helen Drake and Co. have decorated the tables. This month's menu includes baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, and the usual accompaniments: salad, bread, and beverage. Plus, we'll have our traditional February dessert in honor of George Washington: cherry pie. The price of the meal remains \$13.00, which includes the gratuity. Make a reservation by calling Joyce Ross at 373-2359. You can also make a reservation by e-mail at: joycer1007@gmail.com. The deadline to make a reservation is Sunday, February 5, by 8 P.M.

Laurie McKain, Director of Auxiliary Services at Marietta College, will be our guest in February. She will give a brief presentation on the upcoming Ohio Chautauqua event to be held this June on the college campus. A few summers ago, Marietta was host to a Chautauqua program that was interesting and really enjoyable. More information about the program appears on the second page of the newsletter.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone February 8 at the Hotel. It's a good remedy for cabin fever.

KB

A Big Event in a Big Tent

The Ohio Chautauqua, sponsored by the Ohio Humanities Council, will be in Marietta June 19-23 on the campus of Marietta College. The five-day program will be the signature event kicking off the celebration of the 225th anniversary of the creation of the Northwest Territory and the establishment of Campus Martius.

Ohio Chautauqua is a traveling tent featuring a mixture of education and entertainment. This year, it will focus on the time “When Ohio Was the Western Frontier,” presenting history in the compelling form of first person characterizations.

Marietta will host five scholars-in-residence who will assume the costumes and characters of Johnny Appleseed, Margaret Blennerhassett, Chief John Logan, Oliver Hazard Perry, and a member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. There will also be workshops and other events during the five days the program is in town.

The College is in need of volunteers to help with Ohio Chautauqua. If you are interested, contact Lois Arnold at 376-4735, or by e-mail at lois.arnold@marietta.edu. This is a great opportunity for our area in many ways; mark your calendar now.

JW

2012 Dues Reminder—Last Call

This is the final reminder that ORTA and WCRTA dues for this year will be accepted through March 15. If you have already paid your dues, you will find your membership card enclosed. Please let us know if you paid your dues and did not receive a card.

Membership costs \$30.00 for ORTA and \$10.00 for WCRTA. Four dollars of the local dues amount goes toward our annual scholarship. The rest pays for the newsletter, website hosting, and programs at our lunch meetings.

If you want to learn more about ORTA’s efforts on our behalf, visit their website. Just reading the mission statement should convince us all to join:

“The Ohio Retired Teachers Association is the voice of Ohio’s retired public educators. ORTA advocates and promotes the improvement of pensions, benefits and services available to Ohio’s active and retired public educators. The association represents and takes action on behalf of our constituents to STRS Ohio, the Ohio Legislature and other agencies dealing with retirement issues.”

If you have misplaced your membership form, you can still send payment to Becky Nolt at 107 Iroquois Drive, Marietta, OH 45750. Becky’s phone number is 374-5083.

This and That

Washington State Community College is still in need of tutors for some of their programs. Dick Poole, Tutoring/Transition Adviser at WSCC, spoke at our October meeting about the opportunity. If you are interested, contact him by phone at 568-1913. His e-mail address is dpoole1@wscc.edu. The tutoring positions offer modest compensation.

I came across this quotation from John Winthrop and thought it might be appropriate for the somewhat troubled times we live in: "We must strengthen, defend, preserve, and comfort each other." In the year of a Presidential election, perhaps we can find a measure of hope in Winthrop's words.

The choirs from Warren High School entertained us once again at the December luncheon and did a terrific job. This tradition began in 1988 when Ray Lowther was the choir director at Warren and has continued under the direction of Mary Margaret Nuzum. We extend our thanks Mrs. Nuzum and the students of WHS.

What the Doctor Really Means

I was cleaning out some things and found a get well card that provides an interpreter's guide to "doctorspeak." With apologies to American Greetings, here are a few translations:

What the Doctor Says

I'd like to run more tests.

I'd like you to see a specialist.

Bend over.

The nurse will take over from here.

I have good news and bad news.

You'll feel some slight discomfort.

Hmmmm...that's interesting.

This is a highly treatable condition.

What the Doctor Means

I want to add the sunroof option to my new sports car.

I have no clue what's wrong with you.

No translation needed.

I'm late for my tee time at the club.

I have bad news.

This is going to hurt like h _ _ _.

See number 2 above.

You have excellent insurance coverage.

***The truth as I know it.... Karen Burton
(with editorial assistance from Jim Williams)***

