

## Officers

### President:

Jo Ann Ingram (374-5001)

### Vice President:

Jim Williams (373-7194)

### Secretary:

Sally Hale (749-3223)

### Treasurer:

Becky Nolt (374-5083)

### Past President:

Kay Cline (374-7121)

## Committees

### PR and Reservations:

Joyce Ross (373-2359)

### Newsletter:

Karen Burton (373-3317)

### Legislative:

Juanita Baker (373-9702)

### Chaplain:

Jim Fernihough (374-7305)

### Retirement Planning:

Barbara Thode (373-3728)

### Scholarship:

Barb Meek (678-2990)

### Membership:

Hugh Coffman (374-6718)

Eldon Young (678-8077)

### Volunteers:

Bob Bumgarner (374-5103)

### Hospitality:

Helen Drake (373-8513)

# Washington County Retired Teachers Association

*An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association*

## September 2011

"There is something in October sets the gypsy blood  
astir."

William Bliss Carman (1861-1929)

The county fair and the Sternwheel Festival are over for this year, and we find ourselves rushing toward Halloween and then Thanksgiving. I've said it here before, but I have to say it again: We hardly have time to catch our breath from the month's beginning to its end. I've also written before about how much I love the fall, especially its weather and its activities, one of which is the WCRTA October luncheon. Our next meeting is at the Lafayette Hotel Wednesday, October 12, at 12 sharp. Helen Drake reports that the menu this month will be lasagna with garlic bread, a vegetable medley, tossed salad, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream for dessert. The price of the meal remains at \$13.00, which includes the gratuity and beverages. Make a reservation by calling Joyce Ross at 373-2359. You can also make a reservation by e-mail at: [joycer1007@gmail.com](mailto:joycer1007@gmail.com) (Note new address.) The deadline to make a reservation is Sunday, October 9, by 8 P.M. I'm hoping for a good turnout at our meeting this month. The future of our retirement plans is linked to the well being of our statewide organization, ORTA. It is so important that we continue to support its work. ORTA is not an activist organization in the strict political sense. Instead, it has a single focus—the long-term health of the system that provides our retirement and benefits. And now that I'm retired, that's what matters most to me.

Even though the crowd was small at the August meeting, which is not unusual, everyone seemed to have a good time. We had a limited program and our business meeting and were out the door with full "tummies" by 1:30. At that meeting, Scholarship Committee Chair Barb Meek presented Kimberly Barker, a graduate of Waterford High School, with a check for \$650.00 to help with her first year of college expenses. We also had a door prize drawing for a free lunch in October, which Val Hoover won. As always, the decorations were beautiful, the atmosphere was pleasant, and the conversation was fun. I really hope you can join us for lunch on October 12. We will have a musical program to go along with our annual memorial service.

KB

Some of  
the benefits  
of joining  
WCRTA

As Karen has already mentioned, membership in WCRTA and ORTA is important. We need a watchdog to look after our welfare in Columbus. One good example of this need can be found in the many and frequent attacks on public employees in the past year. Many of these attacks are based on misinformation. There seems to be the impression that our retirement and benefits are paid for by current tax dollars. And that is simply not true. Of course, tax dollars paid our salaries while we were working, but as every one of us knows, we paid into the retirement system, and our employers paid into the retirement system on our behalf, in accordance with the law. The employers' share of STRS contributions is deferred compensation. I remember many times when we were negotiating with the school board that we accepted less salary in exchange for improved benefits. There were times when the only progress we made occurred when the board agreed to pay a little more toward our retirement.

I can't speak for you, obviously, and I know some of you disagree with me, but I don't feel like a drain on the state's resources. I worked hard for 30.5 years and chose to take a reduced retirement and benefit package. I don't have any regrets on that score, but I resent being referred to as a "leech," as if my retirement were some kind of welfare. One way to help us keep what we've earned is to join ORTA.

JW

## 2012 Dues

Enclosed with this month's newsletter is the dues form for 2012. Current membership cost to belong to our local chapter is a very modest \$10.00 per year, which covers the cost of the newsletter, the postal permit, and web site hosting. Plus, \$4.00 of every membership goes directly to our scholarship fund, which allows us to help a recent high school graduate, typically one who plans to pursue a career in education. ORTA dues for 2012 are set at \$30.00, which makes the cost of full membership in both organizations \$40.00. The leadership of WCRTA invites you to give serious consideration to joining thousands of other retired educators in Ohio through membership in ORTA.

If you are a life member of ORTA, you need only pay the local dues of \$10.00. Please read the dues form carefully. **If you are a life member of ORTA and have paid local dues in advance, you don't need to do anything. If you have questions, please call Becky Nolt or Jim Williams. Phone numbers are one the first page of the newsletter.**

JW

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## **This and That**

One of the nicest things about autumn in our climate is its many colors. I hope you'll be able to go on one of the many fall foliage tours in the area, or at least take a drive in the country. There are plenty of things to do, with farm markets still going strong, apple butter stir offs, and even some fairs and festivals still to occur.

Ruth Warren is now residing at Heartland on State Route 60 in Devola. I'm sure Ruth would enjoy a note or a card. Speaking of cards, this is a good time to thank Joyce Ross for taking care of our get well and sympathy cards.

I've started buying my candy for Trick or Treat on Oct. 29. Last year, I had around 250 kids come to my door, which means I gave out a lot of candy. But I like seeing all the costumes, some of which are very elaborate. I try not to buy my candy too early, though, because it has a way of disappearing at my house, way before Trick or Treat night. I've been looking for my spider hat to wear to our October meeting, but so far, no luck finding it. I don't know where I've put it, but I have a bat hat as backup. If you have some Halloween finery, wear it to the October lunch at the Hotel. I'll be the one that looks like a spider or a bat.

**KB**

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## **In Memoriam**

For the past several years, we have had a memorial service at our October lunch meeting. Our chaplain, Jim Fernihough, with help from Eldon Young, maintains our memorial records and conducts the service. Hugh Coffman also helps out with the record keeping. At this year's service, we will honor these educators: Nancy Gawthrop, Dorthy Elkins, Ruth Good, Jack Watkins, Nancy Murray, Jean Hereford, Noah Payne, Don Marks, Charles Schoepner, Pat Smith Walner, Mary Jane Delano McInturf, Bonnie Bagwell, Wilma Jurden, Jean Edwards, Bernice "Bunny" Arnold, Connie Brant, Patricia Joan Luzader, and Jane Crandall.

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the passing of Everett Lemasters, who retired from the Frontier Local Schools, and of Grace Hahn Gougler, who had taught at Washington School in Marietta. Their names will also be included in our tribute on October 12.

As always, we apologize for any omissions or errors, and will be glad to print corrections in the next edition of the newsletter.

*"The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards."*

Anatole France (1844-1924)

**KB & JW**

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**2012 WCRTA/ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
**Please make payment by December 1, 2011**

Regular membership is for anyone receiving an STRS check.  
Associate membership is for a spouse and/or friend of education.

If you are an STRS recipient, you should join our Washington County Retired Teachers Association (WCRTA) and Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) organizations whether or not you can take an active part in chapter programs and lunches.

By-laws require **both** membership in ORTA and WCRTA. **Local dues** are required **every year** regardless of whether you are a LIFE ORTA member or renew ORTA yearly.

By becoming a member, you are supporting those who are working on your behalf. Your membership will help protect our retirement benefits. \$4.00 of local dues goes to our scholarship fund and the rest goes toward newsletter mailings, maintaining our web site, registrations for board members to attend regional meetings, occasional guest lunches, etc.

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**PLEASE CLIP AND RETURN TO: Becky Nolt, Treas., 107 Iroquois Dr. D3, Marietta, OH 45750**

**Are you a \_\_\_\_\_ new member OR \_\_\_\_\_ renewal member?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Soc.Sec.No. (new members only) \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Retirement \_\_\_\_\_

Retired from what school district or college \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a life member of ORTA? Please circle. Yes No

If **yes**, then only local dues for WCRTA need to be paid (\$10.00).

If **no**, then either yearly ORTA or life ORTA dues can be paid plus local dues.

2012 local WCRTA regular and associate dues are \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

In some cases, people have paid their WCRTA dues ahead. If your 2012 WCRTA dues are already paid, then Becky Nolt, treasurer, has initialed the form in the space. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND US LOCAL DUES IF YOURS ARE ALREADY PAID**

2011 ORTA yearly dues are \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

ORTA life dues are \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make one check payable to WCRTA for the total amount.**  
**Thank you for your support of ORTA and WCRTA.**