Washington County Retired Teachers Association

*An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association*

September 2015

“This is the time of the Harvest Moon,

The time when the caterpillar spins his cocoon.

The weather turns a little cool,

And some of us are back in school.”

(Stan and Jan Berenstain, Creators of the *Berenstain Bears* Series)

Autumn Greetings,

Fall has arrived—for me, the best time of the year. After a fairly mild summer, I knew it would get hot just in time for school to start, and sure enough…. One year in the early ‘90’s, September was so hot that the school board approved a plan to end the school day early; of course, by the time the plan was in place, the weather broke, and that was the end of that. I’m looking forward to cooler weather and the leaves turning color. Speaking of trees, raccoons have taken up residence in a tree in my back yard, but they spend a lot of time on the roof of the house, which is right in the middle of town.

I’ve started buying my Halloween candy, hoping once again that I can resist the temptation to eat it all myself. One year I had to buy candy three times, so I don’t want to do that again. Another event I’m looking forward to is our October meeting of WCRTA. A nice way to get together with a friend is to come to lunch on Wednesday, October 14, at the Lafayette Hotel. The menu is baked steak with mashed potatoes and gravy, a green vegetable, salad, rolls, and beverage. The dessert this time is a pumpkin surprise. (I’ll be surprised if it’s not tasty; the dessert is always good!) The cost of the meal is $13.00, which includes everything but a gratuity. You can make a reservation by calling Joyce Ross (373-2359), or by e-mail at:

joycer1007@gmail.com.

In addition to our annual memorial service (see the related article on p. 2), we are inviting everyone who attends to bring a picture from your own school days (elementary or high school). We’re going to have some fun and tell some stories.

Our charity for October is the Marietta Recycling Center on Gilman Avenue across from the boat houses. We will pass the hat at the meeting to take up a collection to help with their expenses. They receive very little (if any) funding apart from donations.

And finally, you will notice that the 2016 membership form is included in this mailing. It is extremely important that we maintain a strong organization. ORTA does a good job looking out for the interests of those who receive STRS pensions and benefits. We have members and colleagues who have been retired for more years than they worked. We owe it to them and to ourselves to do our share to help protect what we worked so hard to earn.

**The deadline for reservations is Sunday, October 11, by 8 P.M.**

Our July newsletter included the names of this year’s retirees from the county schools and the ESC. Because of a computer problem, I did not receive the names of **Fort Frye** educators who retired in the past year. I apologize for the omission and extend congratulations and best wishes to these teachers: **Robin Hensley**, **Cath Mace**, **Debbie Maze**, **Brenda Pierce**, **Sue Sampson**, and **Maggie Webster**.

Each summer, when I receive the names of Washington County’s retirees, I send a letter of congratulations, along with an invitation to consider joining ORTA and our local organization, WCRTA. I hope many of you in the “Class of 2015” will become active members.

**Memorial Service October 14**

Our annual tribute to county educators who have passed away over the course of the year will be part of the program at the October meeting. We will honor these teachers and administrators: William (Bill) Brown, Anne Chancellor Cogswell, Mildred McHugh, Mary Kathryn Coleman, Ruth Stutler, Ronald Curry, Paul (Doc) Wolverton, Patsy Stollar, Mabel Hutson, Nancy (Pansing) Wymond, Helen Drake, Joanne West, Warden Howard, Lois Fluharty, Josephine Weber Hune, Paul Kulp, Charles Coyle, Jim Creighton, Freda Butt, Baunelle Hoff, Creston Whiting, Robert (Bob) Pugh, David Boso, Myrtie McVicar, and Scott Miller.

**More Railroad News**

Eldon Young reports that there are still seats available for the October 17 train trip that we mentioned in the last newsletter. He also announced that the Mid-Ohio Valley Model Railroad Club will have their annual show and sale at WVUP on Saturday, October 31. For more information, feel free to give Eldon a call.

**In Memoriam**

I first met Myrtie McVicar when I started teaching at Warren Local in the fall of 1965; one of Myrtie’s daughters was in my class. And I got to know her better when she got a job teaching at Little Hocking Elementary. Myrtie was a descendant of the early settlers of the Vincent and Cutler areas. I liked her a lot and especially admired her common sense and down-to-earth outlook on life. She was a good worker for the teacher organization (WLEA) and a great supporter of public education. I’m going to miss her very much.

Scott Miller taught at Marietta and Belpre High Schools. He was also a part-time minister in local churches. He was very well liked by his students and admired by those who knew him. A friend who attended his funeral service told me it was the biggest funeral he had ever seen. Scott was a such a good role model for students and a positive influence in the community.

Just yesterday I learned that Susie Hiener died Friday morning (Sept. 18) at age 63. I worked with her at Barlow-Vincent Elementary. Susie was a good teacher and very much liked by students, co-workers, and parents. It’s sad that she had so little time to enjoy her retirement. I was also sorry to hear that Grace Weinstock passed away recently. Her husband Loren served as principal of Warren High School for many years. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of these educators and colleagues. As always, we apologize for any errors or omissions.

***The truth as I know it…. Karen Burton***

***(with editorial assistance from Jim Williams)***