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Washington County Retired Teachers Association

An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

January 2014

"Why, what's the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?" -
William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

Hello, Teachers!

I hope 2014 has started well for you and yours. It certainly began on a cold note. In fact, this cold weather has forced me to get out the coat I used to wear for playground duty when I was teaching first grade. The old coat's white and furry and makes me look like a short polar bear standing on its hind legs. But it keeps me warm. Just now, I'd rather not hear from former VP Al Gore on the subject of global warming.

I go out when I have to, but this is a good time to read and enjoy a cup of hot tea or cocoa. Of course, I could be doing some cleaning and organizing, but the couch and a warm blanket somehow seem more inviting. I am planning, however, to venture forth on Wednesday, February 12, to attend the WCRTA luncheon at the Lafayette at 12 noon. The menu is pot roast, slow roasted with potatoes, carrots, and onions, along with a garden salad, rolls, and beverage. Dessert will be chocolate cake. That sounds like a wonderful wintertime meal to me. The price is \$13.00, which does not include a 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 program this time will feature Dr. Bill Bauer, a local educator who is an excellent motivational speaker. The title of Dr. Bauer's presentation is "Can You Hear?"

Speaking of programs, the choirs from Warren HS gave an excellent performance (as usual) at our December luncheon. Over sixty of us enjoyed the music, the meal, and the fellowship. We passed the hat for the Salvation Army and collected over \$200 to donate to their charitable endeavors. At the February meeting, we are going to ask for donations to the Boys and Girls Club of Washington County. They are located now in the Harmar Center, which also houses the Gospel Mission Food Pantry. I think it's good to help others when we can, especially when we know that it can make a real difference.

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, February 9, by 8 P.M.

KB

Last call for 2014 dues!

Included in the September newsletter was the 2014 membership form. If you haven't paid your local dues before March 15, there is a good chance you will no longer receive our bi-monthly newsletter. We normally extend a fairly generous grace period and give folks plenty of time to send in their dues. In March, however, we "thin the herd."

The cost to join both ORTA and WCRTA is \$40.00 total, \$10.00 of which is local dues. If you are a surviving spouse who did not contribute to STRS on your own and want to continue to receive the newsletter, you may elect to pay local dues only. Four dollars of local dues helps to fund our annual scholarship. Send dues payments to Treasurer Becky Nolt at 107 Iroquois Drive D3, Marietta, OH 45750.

This and That

Thanks to Bonnie Weber for accepting the position of vice president for 2014. Bonnie has already been busy lining up programs and speakers for upcoming meetings. Bonnie retired from Warren Elementary, where she worked for many years with WCRTA President Jo Ann Ingram. Please remember to thank Bonnie and Jo Ann (and the rest of the officers and committee chairs) for the work they do!

We still have about 15 ORTA cookbooks that will be available for sale at the February meeting for \$6.00. You can also order one to be sent by mail for \$10.00 (postage paid) by sending the request and payment to Becky Nolt, 107 Iroquois Drive D3, Marietta, OH 45750.

The most recent issue of the *ORTA Quarterly* featured updates on past presidents of the state organization. Among those was a member of our chapter, Hugh Coffman, who served as president of ORTA in 1996. In addition to his work with our organization, Hugh is active in church and community affairs and is especially interested in the effort to restore the one-room school he attended at Tunnel, not far from the Coffman Farm. The article mentions that 2013 marked Hugh's 30th year of retirement, and it was also the 60th anniversary of his marriage to his wife Betty. Congratulations to Hugh and Betty, along with our gratitude for Hugh's service and dedication to retired teachers.

WCRTA Scholarship

The WCRTA Scholarship Committee is working to revise some of the guidelines for our annual scholarship award. Recommendations for change will be on the agenda for our February meeting. The amount of the award will likely remain at \$1,000.00, but the committee may recommend that we limit the award to high school graduates who plan to pursue a career in education. It is also possible that the committee will make a change in how we pay out the award. In the past, we have presented the winner with a check at our June or August meeting, prior to the winner's first quarter or semester of college. This year, we may decide to pay the award at the end of the student's first term of college. A full report on the committee's recommendations and the membership's decisions will appear in the March edition of the newsletter. A little over half of the money for our annual scholarship comes from dues; the remainder comes from individual donations earmarked for the fund. If you would like to make an additional contribution to the fund, send it to Treasurer Becky Nolt.

In Memoriam

I was saddened to hear of the passing of Pat Yeago. She taught vocal music at Barlow-Vincent in the 1970's. She was very good at her job, and the kids loved her. She later trained to be a counselor and retired from the Athens City Schools, where she and her family lived. Pat had been in poor health for several years, but until recently some of the "old" B-V teachers went to lunch with Pat once a year in Athens. With help from Sandra and Sylvia Young, Pat started the annual operetta tradition at the school. J.D. Benson, who teaches music in the Marietta City Schools, said that Pat was the reason he became a music teacher. She influenced many students and will certainly be missed by family and friends.

I first knew Carolyn Walker when she was a senior at Warren High School. She was Carolyn Bryan then. She had taught when she lived out of the area, and when she came back to Washington County, she worked as a substitute and later taught at Warren Elementary. When she first became ill, she was working for the Board of Elections. Carolyn fought a long, hard battle with cancer and passed away at the end of December. I really liked Carolyn; she was fun and funny and always pleasant. We extend sympathy to her family and friends.

As always, we apologize for errors or omissions and will gladly make an effort to correct any that are pointed out.

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