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# Washington County Retired Teachers Association

*An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association*

## July 2013

“The decent docent doesn’t doze;/He teaches standing on his toes.  
His student dasn’t doze and does,/And that’s what teaching is and was.”  
David McCord, *What Cheer* (1945)

Hello, Teachers! What a summer—rain and more rain! I don’t remember such a rainy July as we’re having this year for a long time. Fortunately, the corn and tomatoes and most other locally grown produce have managed to “weather the storm,” as it were, and have been pretty tasty.

It isn’t very long before school will start again. By this time, when I was still working, I began to get things ready for the new school year. I don’t have to do that any more, but I still find myself making a trip to the school supply store to get a few markers and crayons to add to my stash. I seem to need having those items on hand. I still miss the smell of the school building in September; but I don’t miss the smell of January or February when there’s a stomach virus going around.

Speaking of going, try to make your way to the Lafayette Hotel on Wednesday, August 14 for lunch. The menu this time will feature a barbecued chicken breast, potato casserole, candied carrots, and a tossed salad, along with rolls and beverage. Plus there will be orange creamsicle pie for dessert. Yummy, yum, yum! I’ll be there, rain or shine. The price remains \$13.00, but beginning in August, we will ask members who attend to leave a modest gratuity for the servers. 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). The deadline is Sunday, August 11, by 8 P.M.

VP Jo Ann Ingram has arranged for an interesting program for the meeting. Dr. David Lowe, a veterinarian from Beverly, will speak to us about one-room schools in the area. I’m looking forward to it, and I think you’ll enjoy it too. Late summer would be a good time to invite a friend to join you for lunch at the Lafayette. I hope to see you there.

**KB**

"Once More  
into  
the Breach"  
(Henry V)

I retired in 2005 with 30 years of service credit, primarily because Lisa (my wife) was traveling a lot for her job, and our children were 8 and 9 years old. Now that Lisa doesn't travel as much and the children are (obviously) older, I have decided to return to full-time teaching. Last fall, I spent two months substituting at St. John's, working with middle age children (Grades 5-8), and I liked it well enough to start thinking about going back to work. In May, a language arts position at Warren Elementary became available; I applied for the job and have been hired for the coming school year. Vice President Jo Ann Ingram has generously agreed to take over some of my duties as president of WCRTA; but I will continue to do as much as I can for the organization, including my work on the newsletter. Even though I will be partially sidelined for a while, I plan to remain part of WCRTA.

**J. Williams**

### **The "Class" of 2013**

WCRTA extends congratulations and best wishes to the following educators who retired at the end of the 2012-13 school year: **Belpre City** – Ken Cox, Mark Fulmer, Larry Lorentz, Mike Miller, Barbara Terry, Jackie Poole, and Francie Whaley; **Frontier Local** – Tina Albrecht, Sheila Giffin, Sharon Gilmore, Steve Kimes, Betty Neader, and Karen Schneider; **Marietta City** – May Ella Bauer, Mark Doebrich, Sue Lane, Carol Preston, Lindsey Ritscher, Pat Stephan, Jim Thrash, and Sue Smith; **Ohio Valley ESC** – Carol Hare and Debby Victor; **Warren Local** – Kathy Bonnette, Judy Brandjes, Kim Miller, Barb Peery, Polly Pettebone, Marilyn Potash, Kathy Reeder, Sandra Young, and Sylvia Young; **Washington County Career Center** – Steve McLain and Steve Porter; **Wolf Creek Local** – Sue Price.

The increasing number of retire/rehire employees in local school has made it a little more difficult to keep track of each year's retirees. Most rehired people aren't interested in active membership in ORTA, and by the time they actually leave employment, we sometimes lose track of them. If you know of someone who has not been invited to consider joining WCRTA and isn't getting our newsletter, please let us know. You can send an e-mail to [jimwms14@suddenlink.net](mailto:jimwms14@suddenlink.net).

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## **This and That**

The Pre-Retirement Planning Committee has decided not to offer a retirement planning workshop this fall. We sponsored the event in 2012, and the committee felt that everyone affected by the changes in retirement options should have had ample opportunity to examine the options and be fully informed. The Executive Committee approved the recommendation at the July meeting. We will most likely offer the workshop once again in the fall of 2014. The tentative plan is to focus on the transition from the old rules to the new rules.

If you haven't visited our website at [www.orta.org](http://www.orta.org) (select the chapter web pages link), take a look. Thanks to our Webmaster Jay Henry for his hard work maintaining the site. Over the past few months, Jay has reworked most of the site, and it looks great.

Thanks to ORTA Executive Director Ann Hanning, who was our guest at the June meeting. Ann gave a short talk about legislative matters in Columbus and then opened the floor for questions. She was able to share some valuable information with the group concerning changes to the retirement system and the healthcare plan.

## **In Memoriam**

J.R. (Joe) Toller was an active member of WCRTA and ORTA, having served as president of our local chapter and also as vice president of the state organization. He had worked as a teacher and principal, primarily in the Marietta schools. When he retired, he was principal of Phillips School. J.R. was active in many civic organizations and was a certified lay speaker in the United Methodist Church. He belonged to various Masonic organizations and was a veteran of the Korean War. I didn't meet J.R. until after I had retired, but I'm glad I had a chance to know him; he was a fine man, and we will miss him.

Dewey Stollar had a long and impressive career in education. He had taught in many places, mostly in higher education. He had served on various state and college committees and was very well-respected in his fields of expertise. Mr. Stollar was an interesting and kind man—every inch a gentleman. When he retired, he came home to Washington County and was active in local affairs. He had lived in the Waterford area for the past few years.

We have also learned of the death of Theodore "Teddy" Dyer, who passed away in late June. Mr. Dyer was originally from the Belpre area and had worked as an administrator for Ohio University. Later, he worked for Washington State Community College and had retired from there.

WCRTA extends sympathy to the friends and family of these educators; as always we apologize for errors or omissions. Our Chaplain, Jim Fernighough, organizes the annual memorial service for our October meeting, with help from Eldon Young and Hugh Coffman. We do our best to remember all Washington County educators who have passed away in the preceding year, but if you know of someone we might have forgotten, please don't hesitate to inquire.

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

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