

## Officers

**President:**

**Juanita Baker (373-9702)**

**Vice President:**

**Bonnie Weber (678-2844)**

**Secretary:**

**Sally Hale (749-3223)**

**Treasurer:**

**Becky Nolt (374-5083)**

**Past President:**

**Jo Ann Ingram (374-5001)**

## 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 (445-5094)**

**Membership:**

**Hugh Coffman (374-6718)**

**Eldon Young (678-8077)**

**Volunteers:**

**Bob Bumgarner (374-5103)**

# Washington County Retired Teachers Association

*An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association*

## July 2015

“Summertime / And the livin’ is easy.”

*Porgy and Bess, Ira Gershwin*

Hello, Teachers,

What a summer! We’ve had rain, rain, rain, and more rain. I’m thankful that most of us in the Marietta area haven’t had the flood and tornado damage that have afflicted other communities. Thoughts of weather and midsummer remind me that school will be opening again in a month or so, and we can count on hot weather then. I remember days when it was so hot in the classroom that by 9 o’clock in the morning, my clothes were stuck to me. Fortunately, you won’t have that problem when you come to our next WCRTA lunch meeting on Wednesday, August 12, at the Lafayette Hotel at 12 noon. The ballroom at the Lafayette is always nice and cool. The menu is chicken kabobs over grilled asparagus, with roasted red skin potatoes, plus salad, rolls, and beverage. The dessert will be peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream—very refreshing on a warm summer day! 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](mailto:joycer1007@gmail.com).

Our program in August will be a presentation by Greg Nickel, an STRS representative who specializes in insurance and health care services. He will share some important information about insurance options available through the retirement system and will be able to answer individual questions. Here’s a good chance to find out the things you want to know and what we can expect in the year(s) ahead regarding health care for retirees. We also expect that the 2015 recipient of the WCRTA Scholarship will be with us. This year’s scholarship is presented in memory of Helen Drake.

If you missed the June meeting, you missed a good meal and a good program. I loved the salmon filet, and the dessert was especially tasty. I also enjoyed Emily (Bonnette) Hendershot’s talk about her bicycle trip across the U.S.

The charity for August will be the school backpack program. The sponsoring group for that initiative has lost some funding, and they could really use some help. We will be “passing the hat” to provide them some assistance in making sure that needy children have the basic supplies they need to start school.

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

---

# The Class of 2015

WCRTA extends congratulations and best wishes to county educators who have retired this year. With retire/rehire more and more common, it is difficult to keep track of those who have actually retired, of those who have returned to service, and of those who are somewhere in between. Our best available information includes these colleagues from Washington County's school systems: **Susan Hagerty, Scott Miller, Jeff Tharp, and Anita Winter** (Belpre City); **Greg Morus** (Frontier Local); **Evelyn Bryant, Steven Denton, Caroline Fouss, Deborah Luman, Mary Miracle, Ellen Nutter, Beverly Pottmeyer, and Sandra Wilson** (Marietta City); **Judy Anderson, Valerie Jacoby, and Hope Schott** (Ohio Valley ESC); **Rose Alkire, Josette Boggess, Loretta Farley, Debra Finley, Teressa Hamilton, Dan Hedges, Lynlee Hendershot, Susan Hiener, Marty Santini, and Sharon Westbrook** (Waren Local) and **Dave Combs, Ed Radciff, Karolyn Schafer, and Jim Siegfried** (Washington County Career Center). We wish you good luck and hope that your retirement is long, healthy, and very happy.

## What News from the Capital?

The summer issue of the *Orta Quarterly* included an article about legislative concerns that should be of interest to all of us. The article was called "There is Good News and Bad News Out of Washington." The gist of the bad news is that there is a growing trend to lump all public pension systems together, regardless of how they are performing. While some pension systems are facing difficulty, the article points out that the "vast majority like STRS Ohio are doing well."

In addition to this misconception regarding pension systems like ours, there is the perennial threat of mandatory Social Security and a serious movement afoot to transform all defined benefit plans to defined contribution plans. It is important that we remain aware of legislative efforts to dismantle our retirement program. Phone calls, letters, and emails to our legislators, both in Washington and in Columbus, can help.

The article did contain some good news, which we mentioned in the last newsletter. HR 711, which has more than twenty co-sponsors, is designed to replace the Windfall Elimination Provision of Social Security with a formula that will benefit those public servants who also worked under S.S. and receive an unfairly calculated benefit. As noted in the May newsletter, I'll believe it when I see it.

## **“Take a Ride on the Reading”**

Eldon Young shared some train news at the July 13 officers’ meeting. The Mid-Ohio Valley Railroad Club in Parkersburg will have an open house Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16. Their club room will be open Saturday from 10 – 4 and Sunday from noon until 4. Admission and parking are free; the club is located in the rear of the NOE Office Equipment at 610 Green Street in Parkersburg.

Eldon also announced an all-day train adventure for Saturday, October 17, called the “*Potomac Eagle* Fall Colors Dinner Train.” The cost of the excursion is \$119.00 per person, which includes bus transportation to and from Romney, the train ride through the “trough,” and dinner on the train (turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, dessert, and beverage). For more information or to make a reservation, you can call Tom Ratkovich at 304-588-5417 or email Tom at [railsign@suddenlink.net](mailto:railsign@suddenlink.net). I have taken this trip and enjoyed it so much; the food was delicious, and the scenery was spectacular.

All of us who attended the June meeting were very happy to learn that Eldon has gotten a clean bill of health from his doctors, following a tough battle with cancer. It was great news and a treat to have Eldon back with a joke and a story to close the meeting.

## **In Memoriam**

**Creston Whiting** lived a long, interesting life and died in the family home he loved. He had taught for several years at Marietta High School, following a career in the military. Mr. Whiting was a linguist and taught German, Russian and history.

**David Boso**, who taught elementary and high school art in Marietta, passed away early this month. In addition to his teaching career, Mr. Boso was a gifted artist and had owned and operated Dave’s Marine in Belpre since 1967. He also participated in Revolutionary and Civil War re-enactments.

**Bob Pugh** also died in early July. Mr. Pugh had taught history at Fort Frye High School and retired in 1985. Bob and his dad trained horses, and Bob was very actively involved in harness racing. I’ve known the Pugh family for a long time; I taught both of his daughters when they were in first grade.

As always, we apologize for any errors or omissions, and extend sympathy to the families and friends of these educators. They will be missed. In the words of Henry Adams: “A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”

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