

Officers

President:

Jim Williams (373-7194)

Vice President:

Jo Ann Ingram (374-5001)

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 (445-5094)

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

March 2013

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

Hello, Retired Teachers! As my mother and her generation often said, "We've made it through another winter." Most years, March is a changeable month; some days are nice, and other days are awful. When I was teaching, I finally learned that March was a good time to isolate myself in my classroom and keep my opinions to myself.

I like cold weather as a rule, but I have to admit that this year, I'm ready for the change to spring and summer. I am particularly ready for the transition from winter foods to summer foods. Speaking of food, the menu for the April lunch meeting at the Lafayette Hotel is spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, tossed salad, and carrot cake for dessert. It's a change from our usual fare, but it sounds good to me. By April 10, we will have had enough of ham and pork and be ready for something different. The price of the meal remains \$13.00, which includes the 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 deadline to make a reservation is Sunday, April 7, by 8 P.M., so don't be an April fool. Make your reservation today.

The program for the April meeting is a choral group from the Parkersburg area called the Treblemakers. Rusty Kidd, a WCRTA member who retired from the Frontier district, belongs to the group and helped arrange for them to entertain us. Rusty performed as part of a quartet at one of our meetings a couple of years ago. I think we are in for a treat. At the February meeting, Gary Frye sang and played the guitar and keyboard for us. It was really fun, as he performed music from the fifties, which brought back lots of memories. At the April meeting, we also collected cleaning and toiletry items, along with some cash, to donate to the Gospel Mission Food Pantry on the West Side of Marietta. At the April meeting, we will be "passing the hat" to support our own WCRTA Scholarship Fund. Hope to see you there!

KB

Special Cookbook Offer

In the fall of 2012, WCRTA joined other chapters across the state to promote the sale of ORTA cookbooks. We agreed to try to sell 100 of the cookbooks, which was one of the largest orders ORTA received. We still have some to sell and would like to offer them to any member for the original price of \$10.00, which will include the cost of mailing.

Those who bought the cookbooks and have tried out some of the recipes are impressed. If you did not buy one because of the logistics of picking it up, this is a great deal. Send your check payable to WCRTA in the amount of \$10.00 to Becky Nolt, 107 Iroquois Drive (D3), Marietta, OH 45750, with instructions regarding mailing. Orders will be accepted through the end of April on a first come-first served basis.

Don't miss out on this one-time chance to get a great deal on a good book for yourself or for a friend. Keep in mind that a portion of the profit from the sale of the cookbooks goes to our scholarship fund.

WCRTA Scholarship

For many years, our organization has awarded a scholarship to a graduating senior from one of Washington County's high schools. The amount of the award has varied; some years it has been as little as \$500, and some years as much as \$1,000. Lately, we have given a set amount of \$600, which is about 40 percent of the total of local dues paid by members. Because of additional contributions this year, we now have almost \$800 in the fund and have set the goal of awarding a scholarship of \$1,000 this year. That is why the executive committee chose to make our scholarship fund the focus of our charitable endeavor at the April lunch meeting. If you are unable to attend the April meeting but would like to contribute to the fund, you can mail your donation to Becky Nolt at 107 Iroquois Drive (D3), Marietta, OH 45750

Retirement Planning

WCRTA offers a pre-retirement planning meeting every two or three years to county educators who want to learn more about retirement options. Because STRS has made so many changes that will become effective in the next year or two, we are considering offering the planning meeting again this October. We will make a final decision at the May Executive Committee meeting. Barbara Thode, with help from Carolyn Barnes among others, chairs the committee that organizes these meetings, and it is a lot of work. If we decide to offer the workshop again, Barbara and her committee will need help from all of us.

This and That

ORTA President for 2013 is Linda Beaver. The theme she has chosen for her year of service is "Growth in Membership." It is especially important in the current economic and political climate that we remain strong. ORTA is not a highly politicized organization and generally maintains a low profile on controversial issues. Some people do not care for this approach, but I feel that it is one of the strengths of the organization. When an issue is urgent enough to provoke a response from ORTA and the 80 plus local affiliates, people listen.

STRS Board elections are coming up this spring. In the last edition of our newsletter, there appeared a letter to the editor in support of one of the candidates for the two open retired seats on the Board. On the last page of this edition, there is another letter in support of two more of the four candidates running. There is also a brief profile of the two candidates endorsed in the letter.

There will be more on this topic later, I'm sure, but please give it some thought in the meantime. The newly appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction for Ohio is Richard Ross, who has been Governor Kasich's lead education advisor. It is our understanding that Ross will propose a funding scheme that will have state education dollars "follow the student," which will send public moneys to private schools. We have no quarrel with private schools; we would just rather not pay for them.

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of Christine Miner, who taught business classes at Marietta High School. She also directed one of the work study programs which placed students in part-time jobs in local businesses. Christine was a model of professional deportment for her students and was keenly interested in the welfare of others. After retiring from teaching, she made a number of mission trips organized through the Methodist church in Boaz.

Just before the deadline for this newsletter, we learned of the passing of Barry Warden, who taught in the intermediate grades at Phillips School. Mr. Warden was very well liked by students, parents, and colleagues. He had only retired in June of 2012 and was looking forward to a trip to Africa to be part of a humanitarian effort to secure potable water for a community there.

We have also learned of the passing of Doris Davitian, who taught home economics and biology at Marietta High School. Joyce Gaffney Barlow, who lived in Marietta for many years and was active in the community, died in early February. Joyce had worn many career hats, one of which was teaching. Denny Easterling retired from Woodsfield HS, where he taught vocational agriculture. Mr. Easterling served for many years as president of the Monroe County RTA. WCRTA extends sympathy to the friends and family of these educators; as always we apologize for errors or omissions.

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

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In April, all STRS members will receive ballots for electing two retirees to represent us and our interests on the STRS Board of Directors. I recommend the OEA endorsed candidates—Jim McGreevy and Bob Stein.

While it is true that I know Jim McGreevy personally, I have more important reasons to recommend him to you. I am looking for prudent and experienced leadership. We should re-elect him because he has been serving on the STRS Board of Directors since 2009, chairing the Board 2011-2012. After retiring as a teacher in Zanesville and before running for a seat on the STRS Board, he took special training for individuals interested in developing the skills one needs to serve on a retirement board.

Bob Stein also took this special training after retiring from Strongsville Schools in Northeast Ohio. In addition to 27 years of teaching, Bob has broad investment and business experience.

To earn the OEA endorsement (there are four candidates running for the two retired seats), the members of the screening committee agreed that both candidates best demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and character. Both McGreevy and Bob Stein are committed to providing secure and lasting pension benefits and access to quality healthcare for each of us.

Christine McVicar, WCRTA Member

We received the following information from Bob Stein, one of the candidates running for re-election to the STRS Board:

Bob Stein and Jim McGreevy are endorsed by OEA and OFT. Bob is a retired teacher with professional investment training and experience. Jim's extensive governance experience in major community groups is an important asset. Bob asks important investment questions – and understands the answers. Jim served as STRS Board chair during the critical period prior to passage of the pension solvency plan. Bob and Jim know that STRS cooperation internally and with stakeholder groups has been key to all STRS successes under this board. Pension solvency, enterprise risk management, improved healthcare, and improved investments are the result of building alliances with over a dozen constituency groups. By third-party measures, the current board has a very high level of policy effectiveness. Keep this board working. Stronger partnerships mean better outcomes for our beneficiaries. For more information, visit www.bobstein.us.

Editor's Note: We are happy to print letters to the editor from WCRTA members, which you can mail to 21200 State Route 676, Marietta, OH 45750.