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Washington County Retired Teachers Association

An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

May 2013

In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years. ~Jacques Barzun

Another school year is nearly over, and I've now been retired for twelve years. I still remember the feeling of absolute freedom I felt on the last day of school each year; and I also remember the excitement I felt when it was time for school to start again. My teaching years passed quickly, but my retirement years seem to pass even faster. My grandsons are growing up faster than I want them to, and I sometimes marvel at my age and wonder at the face looking back at me from the mirror. Surely, I don't look like that!

Memorial Day, which marks the start of summer for me, is only a week away. I hope we won't have too much beastly hot weather this year; milder weather makes Marietta's summer activities more fun. Speaking of fun, try to make your way to the Lafayette Hotel on Wednesday, June 12 for lunch. The menu wasn't available at press time, but the food is always good and includes a generous entrée with accompaniments, a nice salad, bread, beverage, and dessert, all for \$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, June 9, by 8 P.M. Make your reservation today.

If you know of a 2013 retiree who would enjoy attending our June meeting, please invite him or her to join us. At our April meeting, we were entertained by The Treblemakers, a singing group made up of (mostly) retired men from the Parkersburg and Marietta areas. WCRTA Member Rusty Kidd belongs to the group, and they were terrific. What a treat!

ORTA Executive Director Ann Hanning will be our guest at the June meeting, and we will be "passing the hat" for Harvest of Hope. At the April meeting, our charity began close to home; members present made contributions to the WCRTA Scholarship Fund in excess of \$250, which has allowed us once again to give a \$1,000 scholarship award. (See related articles on Page 2.)

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WCRTA

Welcomes

Ann Hanning

Ann Hanning, Executive Director of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association, will be our guest at the June 12 meeting at the Lafayette Hotel. Ann joined ORTA as the Legislative Agent in 2003 and became Executive Director in 2005; she continues to serve in both roles. Ann has degrees from The Ohio State University and Kent State and worked as a teacher/librarian for the Pickerington and Westerville City Schools. She has been a consultant in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education at the Ohio Department of Ed. She was the Executive Director of OELMA from 1987 until 2002 and has served on the Board of the Ohio Humanities Council. She and her husband, Bill, have adult children and four grandchildren. We are looking forward to her visit to Marietta.

WCRTA Scholarship to Be Awarded

This year's recipient of the WCRTA Scholarship is Nyssa Renee Davis, who will graduate from Marietta High School with the Class of 2013. She is planning to attend Marietta College and hopes to become a counselor or psychologist. On behalf of the scholarship committee, WCRTA Treasurer Sally Hale will present the award to Nyssa at the school's senior awards program. Nyssa will join us for lunch at the June meeting, and we hope to hear more about her accomplishments and plans then.

Thanks to the WCRTA Scholarship Committee (Barb Meek, Chair) for their hard work in soliciting applications, screening candidates, and making a difficult decision. And thanks to the membership for your generosity, which enabled us to increase the amount of the award to \$1,000.

STRS Board Election Results

Official results of the recent STRS Board election were certified May 11, 2013. Incumbents Bob Stein and James McGreevy were re-elected to serve four-year terms as retired members. STRS provided vote totals as follows:

Bob Stein	23,542 Votes
James McGreevy	21,311 Votes
Dennis Leone	20,533 Votes
Nadine McIlwain	10,199 Votes
Write-In Candidates	164 Votes

There was one open seat for a contributing member, but incumbent Carol Correthers ran unopposed. Stein, McGreevy, and Correthers will serve through August 31, 2017.

This and That

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the possibility of hosting a retirement planning event in the fall of 2013. A number of proposed changes to the retirement system in Ohio will become effective July 1, 2014, which means that educators retiring after that date will be subject to the new guidelines. The Retirement Planning Committee, chaired by Barbara Thode, plans to survey county educators to determine if there is enough interest to warrant offering the meeting again this year. Most of the teachers I know have reviewed their options with STRS and have made their decisions, so it may be a better plan to offer the event in 2014 to provide information on the numerous changes to the retirement system. The Executive Committee of WCRTA will make a final decision at their July meeting.

If you make a reservation for one of our lunch meetings and find that you cannot attend, please be sure to cancel. WCRTA has to pay for all the meals reserved, and we are not in a position to absorb that cost. You can cancel by contacting Joyce Ross.

We still have a few ORTA cookbooks available for \$10.00 each, which includes free shipping. If you want to order a cookbook, send payment and mailing instructions to Treasurer Becky Nolt at 107 Iroquois Drive, Marietta, OH 45750.

In Memoriam

Rosemary Campbell, who had only recently retired from teaching at the Washington County Career Center, died April 5 at her home in Williamstown. Rosemary was a talented beautician/cosmetologist and had operated her own shop in Belpre for several years before going to work at the WCCC. "Rosie" was a great person and a good friend.

Carole Craig, who retired from the Belpre City Schools after 33 years of service, passed away April 22. Carole taught music and first grade classes and had been organist and choir director at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Belpre.

WCRTA lost our oldest member on April 27 when Dennis Morris died at age 106. Mr. Morris grew up in Washington County (Constitution) and graduated from Marietta HS in 1925, after which he attended the Normal School at Lowell and began teaching at age 19 at Centennial School (a one-room facility for students in Grades 1-8) located in Decatur Township. He went on to Ohio University and from there to Columbia University in New York, where he earned his master's degree in mathematics. Mr. Morris taught for 35 years at Maplewood Junior High School in South Orange, NJ, retiring in 1970. He and his wife returned to Marietta in 1972, where they were active in community affairs, especially those involving education and service. Mr. Morris continued to play a good round of golf—even after his 100th birthday!

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)***
