

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

November 2013

“Christmas is...doing a little something extra for someone...a time of hope, a time of loving, a time of joy, but most all...Christmas is together time.”

--Charles Schulz (creator of *Peanuts*)

Well, “by gosh, by golly, it’s time for mistletoe and holly” once again. When I was a kid, it took forever for Christmas to get here; now it seems like no time from one holiday season to the next. I do love the holiday traditions, the music, the decorations, and especially the way people seem to be a little nicer to one another. I try to remind myself that Christmas is not about perfection, so I do what I can and make the most of time with family and friends, enjoying the magic of the season.

There are lots of activities going on in town and around the county. Plan to get out to some of them, and be sure to stop for a look at the animated figures in the windows at Peoples Bank in downtown Marietta. Most schools and churches will be having concerts and cantatas and other Christmas programs, and don’t forget the annual performance of *Messiah* at St. Mary’s Church.

Also, don’t forget to make a reservation for lunch at the Lafayette Hotel on Wednesday, December 11, at 12 noon. That’s our annual Christmas lunch, which will feature entertainment by the Warren High School A Cappella and Handbell Choirs. They always present a wonderful program and have become a part of my own holiday traditions. The menu is turkey with homemade dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, a vegetable, red velvet cake for dessert, plus salad, rolls, and beverage. Invite a retired teacher friend to the luncheon, and join us for some good food and fellowship, along with beautiful music. The price remains \$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 deadline is Sunday, December 8, by 8 P.M.

KB

Out with
the old,
in with
the new...

As I mentioned in an earlier newsletter, I returned to full-time teaching in August and will resign as president of WCRTA at the December 11 meeting. Jo Ann Ingram, current vice president, will serve the remainder of my term. Bonnie Weber has agreed to take on the job of vice president; her name will be placed in nomination at our December meeting, and she will serve with Jo Ann through calendar year 2014. The other officers will continue to serve, but Kay Cline will finally get a break from her position as immediate past president.

At the end of next year, we will hold a regular election for officers to serve the two-year term beginning January 1, 2015. A nominating committee will form in the fall of next year to present a slate of officers at the December 2014 lunch meeting.

Jim Williams

This and That

At the October meeting, WCRTA remembered colleagues who had died in the past twelve months. Thanks to Chaplain Jim Fernihough for organizing the memorial service and to Hugh Coffman and Eldon Young for their assistance.

We still have about 25 ORTA cookbooks that will be available for sale at the December 11 meeting for \$6.00. You can also order one to be sent by mail for \$10.00 (postge paid) by sending the request and payment to Becky Nolt, 107 Iroquois Drive D3, Marietta, OH 45750. The cookbook makes a nice Christmas gift.

Once again this year, we will continue our Christmas tradition of passing the hat to collect money for the local Salvation Army. Among charities, the Salvation Army has a long history of delivering the lion's share of donations to people in need. Sally Hale kindly delivered supplies and donations to the Humane Society of the Mid-Ohio Valley following our October meeting.

Don't forget to submit your volunteer hours to Bob Bumgarner. Bob keeps track of the organization's volunteer efforts and submits the data to the state. Virtually all volunteer hours are eligible to be counted, including mission or outreach work done through churches that does not involve making converts or promoting a particular religion.

Membership

The Mission Statement of ORTA:

The Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA) is the eyes, ears and voice of Ohio's retired educators. ORTA advocates and promotes the protection and improvement of pensions, benefits and services available to Ohio's active and retired educators. ORTA represents and works on behalf of our constituents with STRS OH, the Ohio Legislature and other agencies dealing with retirement issues.

The September newsletter included a membership form. To date, about 100 retired educators and surviving spouses have joined WCRTA, including several new members. We are hoping that dues payments continue to come in through the end of the year. Remember that \$4.00 of the local dues goes directly to our scholarship fund. We plan to award a \$1,000 scholarship again this year, payable at the end of the recipient's first term of college. The remaining \$6.00 of local dues pays for our newsletter and other expenses related to communication and outreach.

If you have not yet joined for 2014, please consider doing so before the end of the year. We will revise our mailing list in March to send the newsletter only to eligible individuals who have paid local dues.

On behalf of the executive committee of WCRTA, Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

In Memoriam

Sandy Wilson, who taught languages in the Marietta City Schools, lost her battle with cancer in late October. She was a talented person and lived on her family's farm, where she pursued a number of interests. She was especially knowledgeable about herbs and at one time had an herb business called The Milk House. We reach out in sympathy to Sandy's many friends and to her family.

As always, we extend condolences to the families and friends of colleagues who have passed away and apologize for any errors or omissions. It is not an exaggeration to say that the world was made a better place by the work of these educators and is diminished by their loss.

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