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**Bob Bumgarner (374-5103)**

# Washington County Retired Teachers Association

*An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association*

## November 2015

“Maybe Christmas,” the Grinch thought, “doesn't come from a store.”

---Dr. Seuss

Hello, Teachers,

The stores are full of Christmas displays, and the TV is full of Christmas movies. I would like it better if folks would wait until after Halloween to start the holiday season; it's a little disconcerting to see goblins and witches fighting for space with the holy family and Santa Claus all at one time. I will say, though, that one thing we could surely use just now is peace on earth and good will toward men. Let's hope for better things in 2016.

I was pleased to see that many area schools had programs to honor veterans and commemorate Veterans Day. Our students need to know and understand the sacrifices that veterans made in service to our country. For too long, we did not show enough appreciation.

In spite of my grumbling about the merchandising connected to the holidays, I do truly enjoy this time of year. I love the decorations and the music and even the shopping. I know lots of people do most of their shopping online, but I like going into stores to do mine. I try to shop locally as much as I can; and one place I like to go is Putnam Commons in downtown Marietta. One of our members, Judy Brandjes, and her husband Joe have a lunch counter and a candle/gift shop there. There are other shops in the building, including an antique shop and a bookstore. Stop in if you're downtown and say hello and take a look around.

A special part of the holiday season for me is our WCRTA meeting at the Lafayette Hotel at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 9. The December meeting is all about traditions, and the menu reflects that: turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes with gravy, and glazed carrots, along with a tossed salad, rolls, and beverage. The dessert will be a pumpkin surprise (chef's choice). 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).

By long tradition (25+ years), choirs from Warren H.S. will provide the entertainment. The choirs that usually perform are the A Cappella Choir and the Handbells Choir, both under the direction of Mary Nuzum. One more tradition we've maintained at our December meeting is taking a collection for the local Salvation Army. And finally, the end of the year means it's time to make a calculation of the hours you have spent this past year volunteering. Almost all hours count, except those whose purpose is to further a particular religious denomination. For example, time spent recruiting new members for your church would NOT count; but time spent feeding the hungry at your church WOULD count. Bob Bumgarner keeps track of the group's volunteer hours. Please forward your tally to him before mid-January.

Mark your calendar now, and make your reservation today for Wednesday, December 9. You'll enjoy the food, the music, and the company of old friends. It's also a chance to make new friends. I'll be there in one of my Christmas sweaters and hope you will be there too. I wish you a blessed holiday season and good health and happiness in the New Year.

**The deadline for reservations is Sunday, December 6, by 8 P.M.**

# Signing off—at least for now.

*Jim Williams*

I've been teaching full time again since the fall of 2013 and began a new job this August at Caldwell High School. In addition to starting a French program there, I'm also teaching a drama class and have agreed to direct two productions this school year. When I returned to full-time work, I thought I would be able to keep up with all my volunteer activities, but I've found that impossible to do.

I began editing and assembling the WCRTA newsletter about ten years ago, shortly after I retired in 2005, and I've enjoyed it. Karen Burton and I have been friends since the early 1980's, and working with her always ensures a good time and lots of laughs. But in spite of that, and with some reluctance, I've decided to turn over my newsletter duties to someone else. If you would like to help out with the newsletter, contact President Juanita Baker; her phone number is on the first page of this issue.

A few words from *Walden* come to mind: "I left the woods for as good reason as I went there. Perhaps it seemed to me that I had several more lives to live, and could not spare any more time for that one." I don't know what the last quarter has in store—probably not "several more lives"—but who knows? Whatever the case, I won't be far away and look forward to being part of WCRTA for a very long time.

## **This and That**

The September issue of the newsletter included a 2016 membership form. If you have not paid your dues yet, please take a minute or two, fill out the form, include payment, and send it to Treasurer Becky Nolt at 107 Iroquois Drive, Marietta, OH 45750. If you can't find the membership form, it is available at the WCRTA website. WCRTA depends on local dues to fund our annual scholarship and to pay the costs associated with the newsletter.

We had a pretty good turnout for the October meeting. Several of us brought pictures from our school days and shared them with the people at our tables. Thanks to Chaplain Jim Fernihough, with help from Eldon Young and Hugh Coffman, for putting together our annual memorial service. The sad task of remembering friends and colleagues who have passed away was tempered somewhat by sharing memories and enjoying the fellowship.

One of WCRTA's goals for 2016 is to increase participation and attendance at our meetings. We have a solid core of faithful members who attend almost every meeting; and we have a fairly large number who always come to the December meeting, which is invariably the best attended of the year. But it would be great if more of our members would attend a meeting at least occasionally. It's a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours with a friend or a group of friends, and the cost is relatively low for a plated, multi-course meal. So please give some thought to joining us for our last meeting of 2015 or for one of the six meetings in 2016.

The local chapter of Habitat for Humanity is always in need of additional volunteers. Naturally, they can use help with the work of building, wiring, plumbing, etc.; but they also need people who are willing to help out with meals to feed those who are doing the building and related work. WCRTA plans to offer some help to this organization, but the initiative won't begin until spring, so please consider joining in the effort.

I'm finishing up this edition of the newsletter and watching some of the coverage of the terrible events of November 13 in Paris. The news is frightening, and I sometimes wonder what kind of world my grandsons will have to inhabit twenty or thirty years from now. But all things considered, I have much to be thankful for, and I expect most of you do too. By the time you receive the newsletter, Thanksgiving will have come and gone once more; I hope yours was happy.

## Some Help for the Year Ahead—Maybe

If most people agree that stores put out their Christmas merchandise too soon, I'm certain that virtually all people would agree that the candidates for the Oval Office start that process **way, way** too soon. For the most part, I find it tedious and tiresome, but would probably find it more interesting if modern politicians could revive the old-fashioned art of the riposte or repartee. So I found a few examples that Mr. Trump and Dr. Carson and Mrs. Clinton will likely ignore, but maybe you can find a use for them in the months to come.

- "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."  
(Oscar Wilde)
- "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." (Groucho Marx)
- "His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." (Mae West)
- "Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time in reading it." (Moses Hadas)
- "I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."  
(Stephen Bishop)
- "He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." (Forrest Tucker)
- "I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."  
(Mark Twain)
- "He is a self-made man and worships his creator." (John Bright)
- "He had delusions of adequacy." (Walter Kerr)
- George Bernard Shaw wrote to Winston Churchill: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend if you have one." Churchill wrote back: "Cannot possibly attend first night; will attend second—if there is one."
- A member of Parliament said to Benjamin Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease." Disraeli replied: "That depends, Sir, whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

### In Memoriam

Ron Neely taught science at Marietta Middle School for twenty-five years and retired in 1990. He had previously taught vocational agriculture in West Virginia and Ohio. Mr. Neely passed away in late October.

We were also sorry to learn of the passing of Carol Holland who taught art at Belpre Middle School. Some readers may remember her as Carol Warner. Carol died in early November.

As always, we extend our sympathy to the friends and families of these educators. Additionally, we apologize for any errors or omissions.

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