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Washington County Retired Teachers Association

An Affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

September 2014

"I saw old Autumn in the misty morn
Stand shadowless like silence, listening
To silence." (*Ode: Autumn*, Thomas Hood, 1827)

Happy Fall, Teachers,

For me, the best time of the year has arrived—September through December. My favorite holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas) make for lots of good times and happy memories during the last quarter of the year. I like fall sports, church bazaars, the fall foliage tours, and I love the cool, crisp air. I even like the back to school feeling that's a part of early autumn. That's not to say that I'd want to be teaching again, even though I really liked it at the time. I miss the kids and the people I worked with, and I have lots of good experiences to remember; but I'm happy I don't have to deal with everything that today's teachers do. Speaking of fall activities brings to mind our October 8 lunch meeting at the Lafayette Hotel at 12 noon. The October menu is meat loaf with scalloped potatoes and a vegetable and apple crumb cake for dessert, along with the usual accompaniments (salad, bread, and beverage). Meat loaf is one of my favorite comfort foods, so I'm looking forward to a tasty meal and a visit with old friends and new acquaintances. The cost of the meal is \$13.00, which includes everything but a gratuity. You can make a reservation by calling Joyce Ross at 373-2359, or by e-mail at: joycer1007@gmail.com.

Our October program will feature the annual memorial service when we pay tribute to colleagues we have lost in the past year. We will also have a guest from Wasco who will talk about early intervention and other issues related to children with various challenges. Our charity for this month is the Western Washington County Food Pantry. Members are invited to bring a contribution of non-perishable food items or cash to help out our neighbors who are in need.

I'm going to be at the Lafayette on October 8 and will likely wear one of my Halloween hats or sweaters. Why not plan to join us for a good meal, a chat with other retired teachers, and a leisurely look at the Ohio River?

The deadline for reservations is Sunday, October 5, by 8 P.M.

KB

Why You

Should

Join

ORTA is a (mostly) nonpartisan organization whose mission is to look out for the welfare of retired educators in Ohio. The fact that ORTA rarely gets involved in political issues or endorses candidates is an advantage when it comes to dealing with legislators. This is extremely important in an era when almost everything becomes politicized. Some educators may view this effort to remain above the fray as a weakness, but I believe it serves ORTA well in dealing with politicians whose decisions affect all of us.

Included in this month's newsletter is the 2015 membership form. This is the only copy you will receive because we have found that sending the form more than once creates confusion. If you are part of a two-member household, we have tried to make sure you have two forms, but I'm sure we missed some people. Feel free to duplicate the form; or if you are a continuing member, you can send your dues with a note of explanation to Becky Nolt, 107 Iroquois Drive D3, Marietta, OH 45750. Do it today while you're thinking about it.

Pre-Retirement Planning Event

Once again this fall, WCRTA will host a retirement planning meeting for all Washington County educators. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, at the Washington County Career Center at 4:30. The main speaker at the event will be a representative from STRS, who will provide an overview of retirement options. The program will focus on guidelines effective through June of 2015 and also on the new guidelines that go into effect July 1, 2015. In addition to the STRS representative, we will have one or more financial planners with us to offer advice and answer questions. Thanks to Barbara Thode and Carolyn Barnes for putting this workshop together. At the October luncheon, we will ask members to make a commitment to help with refreshments or other parts of the program. If you cannot attend the October 8 lunch meeting and want to help, contact Barbara Thode or Carolyn Barnes.

"This is the time of the Harvest Moon,
The time when the caterpillar spins his cocoon.
The weather turns a little cool,
And some of us are back in school."

(Stan and Jan Berenstain, Creators of the Berenstain Bears Series)

Election 2014

November 4 is Election Day, a time when each of us gets to exercise an important right accompanied by a significant responsibility. Because the country has become so polarized in recent years, with little space in the center for people of moderate views, we are reluctant to offer advice on particular candidates. This writer's advice is to find out as much as you can about the candidates' views and voting records, think about what's at stake, and take the time to vote.

The Washington County Board of Elections may still be in need of volunteers to help out with this year's election. If you are interested in donating some time toward a worthwhile civic duty, contact Peggy Byers.

In Memoriam

Since our last newsletter, we have learned of the passing of several colleagues, including Mary Ward Sayre McIntire. Mary returned to college after her children were in school, and had taught in both the Marietta and Warren Local School Districts.

Carolyn Crandell passed away in late August. She had taught mathematics in various schools and colleges, including Muskingum University, for more than 45 years before retiring from Washington State Community College.

Vivian Cayton taught art in Marietta for many years. She was very well liked by her students and colleagues. A friend of Mrs. Cayton tells me that she was instrumental in starting the prom dress program where girls can donate their dresses to be sold later at a very reasonable price.

WCRTA lost a long-time member and good friend recently. Bill Tackett came to Warren High School to teach vocational agriculture when the school opened in 1960. He had started his teaching career at Glenford H.S. in Perry County. According to Bill's friend Hugh Coffman, "Bill was an excellent mentor for his Ag. students, always setting a good example with the importance of hard work and keeping your word."

Even though he was not retired, many of us from Warren and Marietta were sad to learn of the passing of Dennis Sturm. Dennis had battled a rare form of brain cancer for three and a half years. Dennis taught his entire career at Warren High School, where he was the baseball coach.

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of these colleagues who made a huge difference in the lives of so many young people. As always, we apologize for any errors or omissions.

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

