

# SCRТА NEWS

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF Ohio Retired Teachers Association      MAY 2012



## Acting President's Message

### "The Call and the E-mail"

It was Friday, April 20, 2012 when I received a call from Judy Mervine, our SCRТА secretary, asking if I had received news that Sue and Bob Frutchey were both in the hospital. Understandably, they had sent in their resignation letters as President and Newsletter Editor of SCRТА. We had our Board meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2012 and everyone was willing to do whatever they could to temporarily fill the shoes of these two valuable people to SCRТА. We were in a crisis mode. Then, a week later, an e-mail came with the sad news that Bob had died. Please keep Sue and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

I have only known the Frutcheyes for the years I have been a member of SCRТА. One thing I will definitely miss is the leadership of both. The immediate loss will be felt for the first time when we meet on June 4, 2012. No more jokes by Sue . . . and who will lead us in song? I hope someone reading this will step up to do this for us.

Our program for the next gathering will be presented by Sharon Deitrick, a member of the National Committee for the Flight 93 Memorial. Read about the program in a separate section of this newsletter.

We need your support now more than ever. Please invite your fellow teachers who have retired. Do you realize that other family and friends are welcome to come to our luncheons?

Have you heard that we are **NOT** receiving cost of living increases this year? Come to the June meeting and find out more details.

Your colleague,  
Mary Lou Swartz  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Acting President



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## THE FLIGHT 93 STORY "A Day Forever Remembered"



## SCRTA Legislative News April 2012



The passengers and crew of Flight 93 are the citizen heroes we can only aspire to be. Those who gave their lives aboard Flight 93 are an inspiration that we can be strong in adversity and unafraid in danger. The actions of the passengers and crew of Flight 93 serve as a reminder of both the responsibility and privilege of citizenship.

Please join us this **June 4, 2012**, one month before our July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 national holiday to hear Miss Sharon Deitrick, founder of the 93 cents for Flight 93 program, and a charter member of the Flight 93 National Task Force. Sharon is owner and president of Deitrick & Associates Interiors Inc. & Facilities Solution Groups, a small interior & Design Company in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of operation in Akron, Ohio.

SCRTA will have available a Patriotic Cup on each table. Feel free to donate 93 Cents or more. There will be Flight 93 t-shirts available after the meeting for \$10 dollars. (Just in time for July 4<sup>th</sup>.) Purchase one for yourself or for family members! You have an opportunity to be a contributor for the completion of the Flight 93 Memorial.

Feel free to bring others who might be interested in learning more about this tragic day in American History.

Mary Lou Swartz  
Program Chairman

### COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

We are continuing to collect "hotel" or "motel", sample size or larger, toiletries for the Battered Women Shelter. Please bring items with you to our next General Meeting at Guy's Party Center on Monday, June 4, 2012. Thank you!

Christine Bean - SCRTA Community Service Chair

**Federal:** At present: no movement on legislation changes for Social Security or Medicare/Healthcare.

**State:** STRS voted at the April meeting to drop the COLA this year and continue next year at 2%. Dr. Leone, former STRS Board member, called this unfair to retirees and the president of CORE used the term unfair.

Historically there has been a 3% COLA for the last quarter century (25 years or more) and some form of cost-of-living for better than 50 years from STRS.

The changes for STRS to obtain a 30 year unfunded liability are on the shoulders of STRS retirees. Active STRS members and the OEA are ringing STRS phones to support their interests.

What can we do? Why is ORTA silent if it is the only teacher organization representing retired teachers?

Note: Ohio legislators passed legislation in 2002 providing a 3% COLA, regardless of cost of living for retirees in the five (5) Ohio retirement systems.

The current ORTA president states we use our teacher voice to support our interests. See his article in the current ORTA Quarterly. Do something for our retiree interests. Call ORTA at 877-431-7002 to question the position of COLA reduction. Call STRS at 888-227-7877 to question why our elected retiree members on the STRS Board are not voting for our retiree concerns. When you call STRS, ask for BENEFITS.

Become active in our local (SCRTA) organization. You are needed on the Board. Run for office.

K.W. Fluke, PhD,  
Legislative Chair



## ORTA NEWS



On May 3, 2012, I attended the ORTA Board Meeting at the ORTA Building in Columbus as Summit County Trustee.

Jim McGreevy, State Teachers Retirement System Chairman of the Board and Retiree Member, addressed the ORTA Board on the pending pension plan reform. It is expected that the Ohio Legislature will receive the five state pension plans as five separate bills very soon. The bills as received may be altered by the Ohio Legislature. Some legislators want to get the pension bills completed and enacted as soon as possible. Other legislators want to delay the pension bills until after the November election.

The expensive, redundant audit that was ordered by the Ohio Legislature at a cost of \$250,000 to STRS is incomplete. The legislation may be completed and enacted before they receive the audit.

The ORTA Board appreciated the lengthy and comprehensive presentation that STRS Chairman McGreevy presented. Chairman McGreevy answered all questions offered at the ORTA Board Meeting. ORTA Executive Director Ann Hanning supplemented the thorough examination of the pending bill.

ORTA Executive Director Hanning has been very active in the constituent groups involved in the development of the STRS Pension Bill. The ORTA Board passed a motion to support the STRS Pension Plan as outlined by Chairman McGreevy.

The STRS Pension Plan as proposed includes changes for both active and retired teachers:

### **Active Teachers might expect:**

Work longer

Pay a higher percentage for their pensions

Receive a lesser benefit from their pensions

### **Retired Teachers might expect:**

A 2% Simple COLA

To continue to receive their pensions without decrease

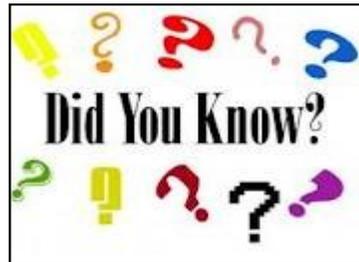
## **The STRS Ohio Pension Plan**

Provides retired teachers a reasonable and reliable defined-benefit, lifetime pension

Meets the 30-year funding period requirement

Maintains a 1% contribution to STRS Ohio's Healthcare Fund

**Rebecca Ann Zurava, PhD, ORTA Trustee**  
**Summit County Retired Teachers Association**



By Mary Anasson

### **WHAT IS SHINGLES?**

Shingles is a painful skin rash, often with blisters. It is also called Herpes Zoster, or just Zoster. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts from two to four weeks. Its main symptom is pain, which can be quite severe. Other symptoms of shingles can include fever, headache, chills, and upset stomach. Very rarely, a shingles infection can lead to pneumonia, hearing problems, blindness, brain inflammation (encephalitis) or death. For about one person in five, severe pain can continue even long after the rash clears up. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia. Shingles is caused by the Varicella Zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox. Only someone who has had chickenpox—or, rarely, has gotten the chickenpox vaccine—can get shingles. The virus stays in your body and can cause shingles many years later. One can get shingles more than once. You can't catch shingles from another person with shingles. However, a person who has never had chickenpox (or the chickenpox vaccine) could get chickenpox from someone with shingles. This is not very common. Shingles is far more common in people 50 years and older than in younger people. It is also more common in people whose immune systems are weakened because of a disease such as cancer or in people who take drugs such as steroids or chemotherapy. At least one million people a year in the United States get shingles.

(Please see Shingles pg.4)

*May 2012*



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**ATTENTION NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS: If your address label is RED-LINED, this will be the last newsletter you will receive unless we receive payment for current dues.**

(Shingles Continued)

### **THE SHINGLES VACCINE**

A vaccine for shingles was licensed in 2006. In clinical trials, the vaccine reduced the risk of shingles by 50 percent. It can also reduce pain in people who still get shingles after being vaccinated. A single dose of shingles vaccine is recommended for adults 60 years of age and older.

### **SOME PEOPLE SHOULD NOT GET THE SHINGLES VACCINE OR SHOULD WAIT**

A person should not get the shingles vaccine who: has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to gelatin, the antibiotic neomycin, or any other component of the shingles vaccine. Tell your doctor if you have any severe allergies. A person should not get the shingles vaccine who: has a weakened immune system because of current AIDS or another disease that affects the immune system, current treatment with drugs that affect the immune system such as prolonged use of high-dose steroids, or current cancer treatment such as radiation or chemotherapy.

Mary Kostas Anasson, Chair  
SCRTA Informative & Protective Services Committee

*Source: ORTA Spring Conference 2012*

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**



#### **Acting President/1st VP/Program Chair -**

Mary Lou Swartz (330-644-2009)

#### **2nd VP/Legislative Chair - Kay Fluke**

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**ORTA Past Presidents - Blin Scatterday, Bob Dengler**

**Members At Large - Paul Green, Mary Anasson,**

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