

SCRTA NEWS

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF OHIO RETIRED TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

April 2010

ORTA



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are creatures of habit. Perhaps I should say—I am a creature of habit. Several days in February the snow was rapidly falling. The ground and streets were filling up with high drifts. Side walks were no where to be seen. Pleasant thoughts started to race through my head....Will school be cancelled or not?...Wait a minute, I'm retired, and whether school is called off no longer affects my life. Wrong! I still felt it necessary to turn on the TV to learn if my school would be cancelled or not. Some habits cannot seem to be unlearned.

The sun is shining today, the snow is slowly melting and robins have been hopping around our yard. I know spring is around the corner just waiting for me to enjoy. Now I must count the days until school is out for the summer break and all the classroom books are packed away waiting for the next class to arrive.

Habits are not always bad. We enjoyed our years as educators and from time to time we see our former students. Usually they are happy to see us and share some of their experiences with us. Some of these experiences could develop into habits.



GUY'S OUR LUNCHEON MEETING LOCATION DOOR PRIZES TOO

On Monday, **April 5, 2010**, the SCRTA will meet at Guy's Party Center located at 500 East Waterloo Road in Akron at noon. .
When you make your reservation, you will need to indicate your entrée (Swiss Steak, Broiled Scrod, Baked Chicken or Vegetarian Stir Fry) . Included with your entrée is - baked potato, green beans, salad, garlic bread,, sherbet, coffee, tea, or lemonade..-all for only \$11.00. (Tax & tip incl.)

HELPFUL INFORMATION

If you need to get in touch with your officers, the following information will help you:
Pres.- *Sue Frutchey*—330-753-2474
Vice Pres. - *Mary Lou Swartz*—330-644-2009
Vice Pres. - *Kay Fluke*— 330-773-2097
Treas. - *Paul DiMascio*—330-882-4738
Sec. - *Judy Mervine* — 330-745-7587
Board Members: Mary Anasson, Paul Green, Christine Bean, Carolyn Vogenitz, Hal Eckart, Bob Frutchey, Elaine Jarvis, Gordon Rice, Bob Dengler, Blin Scatterday, Eugene Thrall, Ruby Winter, Leroy Martin, and Rebecca Zurava

My first job was working in an Orange Juice factory, but I got canned.
Couldn't concentrate!

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

February, 2010

Federal and State Legislation in limbo.

FEDERAL: Health Care legislation is still in the debating stage. Social Security offset GPA-WEB negatively affects a number of Ohio retired teachers and also those in other states. The January 2010 issue of NEA Today, visits many retired teachers who have been receiving reduced benefits or none at all. Possibly you may find suggestions to contact legislators as presented in the magazine article.

STATE : There is no state action on STRS or other Ohio state pensions' legislation. There is a proposal to reduce our 3% COLA. (Cost Of Living Allowance) This is the only, at present, inflation protection STRS retirees receive. In 2002 legislation was enacted that gave retirees in the five Ohio pension systems, a 3% COLA. With federal stimulus funding, it is only a matter of time until inflation may escalate. I urge you to write to your STRS Retirement Board members and to the STRS Executive Director and express your feelings, especially since there has not been , for many years, other inflation protection, i.e. like the "13th check" and "Ad-hoc raises" which temper inflation for the STRS retiree. If our STRS investments turn positive, these legislatively permissible items **should be given top priority** with health care funding continuation.

February news from STRS indicates that pension legislation sponsorship will be bipartisan. STRS is waiting for the legislative service commission to finish its work in drafting the legislation designed to keep the systems financially strong and sustainable for all current and future public employees.

Kay W. Fluke, Ph.D.—Legislative Chair

Editors note—"Apparently ORTA hopes that the 2% COLA for current retirees (and the 1.5% for future retirees) is retained as any bills are introduced and moved through legislature. This is the ORTA position on the Long—term Solvency Plan of STRS". I would urge you to contact your ORTA board and your STRS board. Our 3% COLA is our only inflation protection STRS pensioners receive.

ATTENTION!!!!

Ruby Winter out of town, Carolyn Vogenitz submitting.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION

You are invited to this year's first general meeting of SCRТА. The meeting will be held **Monday, April 5, 2010**, at noon at Guy's Party Center located at 500 E. Waterloo Road in Akron. The price of the luncheon is only \$11.00 (tax & tip included). Make checks payable to SCRТА and check your choice of entrée. Your reservation please must be mailed by **Wednesday, March 31, 2010**, to:

CAROLYN VOGENITZ, 3326 WATERSIDE Dr., AKRON, OHIO 44319

- NAME _____ ENTRÉE SELECTION _____
- _____ SWISS STEAK _____ BAKED CHICKEN
- _____ BROILED SCROD _____ VEGETARIAN STIR FRY

Health & Wealth

If you read the Akron Beacon Journal on Monday, January 11, 2010, you came across a local Akron Doctor who has written a book entitled "101 Ways to Save Money on Healthcare" We are fortunate to have Dr. Cynthia Koelker as our speaker for the April 5, 2010 meeting. Dr. K is a graduate of Ellet High School and has had her family medical practice for twenty years in that same neighborhood. Her book at a discounted price of \$15.00 including tax will be available. .

Isn't it wonderful to have former students give back to us after we were able to start them off in their earlier years? Just to remind you that our September, 2009, speaker was a representative from STRS who was a graduate of Firestone High School. Now...at this spring meeting...we have Dr. Koelker, another Akron Public School graduate.

I would like to invite other school district and suburban school retirees to recommend to me some of your graduates so we can invite them to present a future program.

Mary Lou Swartz Program Chairman

A TASTE OF DOCENTING (for Akron Art Museum)

The kick off event for new and potential docents will take place on Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 pm in the Akron Art Museum lobby. It will feature a short presentation, mixing and mingling with current docents and a free museum tour. Parking is free after 6:00 pm in the city garage at High Street and East Market Street. Please RSVP to - 300.376.9186 x 230 or acaplan@akronartmuseum.org

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday April 5, - SCRТА General Meeting—Guy's Party Center

Wednesday April 14, -ORTA IX, X, XI, Regional Conference meeting -Mckinley Grand Hotel, Canton

Tuesday April 20, - SCRТА Board meeting—AEA building

Monday June 7, - SCRТА General Meeting—Guy's Party Center

Tuesday September 7, SCRТА General Meeting—Guy's Party Center

Monday November 1, SCRТА General Meeting—Guy's Party Center

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

In this issue of SCRТА News is the application form for the SCRТА \$1000.00 scholarships. Under the leadership of Carolyn Vogenitz, the application has been revised again. It is the hope of the SCRТА board that scholarships will be awarded again this year. If you know of a young person who may qualify for a scholarship, please give them this application.

SCRТА

Next General Meeting—Noon—Guy's Party Center

April 5th

You must register before Wednesday, March 31st

SMILE BE HAPPY

(+ +)

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Summit County Retired Teachers' Association
751 Highland Park
Akron Ohio 44319

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
AKRON, OHIO 44309
Permit No. 418

DATED MATERIAL—PLEASE
DELIVER BY 3—17 — 10

NEWSLETTER RECIPIENTS: If your newsletter mailing label has a red line on it, this is the last newsletter you will receive until your dues are made current.

LETS GO TO THE SCRTA WEBSITE

Follow the path to the Summit County Retired Teachers Association Website.

Go to the Ohio Retired Teachers Association Website <http://www.orta.org/>

Click on ORTA Chapter Website Access box in right corner

Click on SUMMIT

Click on the Summit County RTA quilt square.

You are There <http://www.simmitcountyrta.org/>

Enjoy our SCRTA website!

We are proud to announce the unanimous acceptance of our new “Web Master” for the Summit County Retired Teachers Association.

Mr. Leroy Martin

330.666.3984

LMartin@infoteam.com

Do You Know a Retired Educator who is Not a Member of SCRTA/ORTA?

Do you know a retired educator who is not a member of the Summit County Retired Teachers Association and/or the Ohio Retired Teachers Association? We have power in numbers!! We need new members! Please email the names and addresses of potential members to the Ohio Retired Teachers Association at—ortastaff@orta.org.

ORTA will mail a membership packet to the retired teacher. The membership packet will come from ORTA. Your name will not be included in the packet. Lets enlarge our membership!

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

If you receive this newsletter in error, please contact Gene Thrall, Membership Chair at 330 - 867 - 7208 or Elaine Jarvis, computer labeling chair, at - 330 - 877- 9965

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

If you want a “get well” or “sympathy” card sent to a SCRTA member, please contact Christine Bean at - 330 -784 - 4575

Once I worked in the woods as a Lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it,
so they gave me the axe!

.2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR SCRTA & ORTA

NAME _____ YEAR YOU RETIRED _____

ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

Phone (____) _____

Email address _____

SCRTA DUES ANNUAL: \$5 ____
(& ASSOCS.)

LIFE: \$60 ____
I am a SCRTA LIFE member _____

ORTA DUES: ANNUAL: \$20 ____
(& ASSOCS.)

LIFE: \$300 ____
I am an ORTA Life member _____
I pay ORTA directly _____

BRING THIS FORM, COMPLETED, WHEN PAYING DUES AT OUR GENERAL MEETING.
Make all checks payable to SCRTA for both SCRTA or ORTA membership.

By mail send to:
C. Eugene Thrall, 194 Castle Blvd., Akron, OH 44313-6533

PHONE: (330-867-7208). Send self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of membership card.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NOTICE!

Our membership team, Elaine Jarvis and Gene Thrall are working on updating our membership list. It is their hope to complete this project so it can be printed and distributed at the April 5th luncheon meeting.

You will notice there has been a decline in the membership. You as a member can be of great assistance. Invite your retired educator friends or inform newly retired teachers about Summit County Retired Teachers Association, Ohio Retired Teachers Association, and State Teachers Retirement System.

Sue Frutchey—SCRTA President

**TO ALL THE KIDS WHO SURVIVED THE
1930's, 40's, 50's, 60's, AND 70's**

First, we survived being born to mothers who smoked and/or drank while they were pregnant.

They took aspirin, ate blue cheese dressing, tuna from a can and didn't get tested for diabetes.

Then after that trauma, we were put to sleep on our tummies in baby cribs covered with bright colored lead-base paints.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, locks on door cabinets and when we rode our bikes, we had baseball caps not helmets on our heads.

As infants and children, we would ride in cards with no car seats, no booster seats, no seat belts, no air bags, bald tires and sometimes no brakes.

Riding in the back of a pick-up truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle.

We shared one soft drink with four friends, from one bottle and no one actually died from this.

We ate cupcakes, white bread, real butter and bacon. We drank Kool Aid made with real white sugar. And, we weren't overweight. Why?

Because we were always outside playing...that's why!

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the street-lights came on.

No one was able to reach us all day. And, we were O.K.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then ride them down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times, we learned to solve the stopping problem.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo's and X-boxes. There were no video games, no 150 channels on cable, no video movies or DVD's no surround sound or CD's, no cell phones, no personal computers, no Internet and no chat rooms. WE HAD FRIENDS and we went outside and found them!

PROTECTING YOUR IDENTITY

We are reminded frequently that identity theft is on the rise. The General Accounting Office estimates that at least 750,000 Americans are victims of identity theft each year, many thefts are not even reported. This is an awesome statistic! Listed below are a few suggestions that might help you do your part to protect your identity.

1. Never share your personal information on the phone unless you know the caller or unless you have initiated the call.
2. Many e-mails from bank or credit card companies that look official are not; this is called “phishing”. You are asked to verify information. Never answer these e-mails; instead, forward them on the actual bank or credit card company (they say they are representing) and let its Fraud Unit handle the matter.
3. Shred everything that has your personal or financial information on it. The identity thieves do check trash bins.
4. Scrutinize all your financial statements for discrepancies. If an item is unauthorized, contact your financial institution immediately.
5. Check your credit report yearly; you have all heard the jingle about the free credit report. You are the only one who can verify and correct information on it.
6. Be wary of using a credit card in a restaurant where you cannot see your server with your credit card at all times. In this situation, it is best to use cash or to take your bill and credit card to the desk yourself.
7. Make sure you have all copies and receipts for your debit/credit card purchases anywhere.
8. Identity thieves do obtain information from mail delivered to your mailbox. Consider a P.O. Box if you do not pick up your mail soon after its delivery.
9. Ensure the security of your on-line shopping. Does your browser have a secure connection—an”https” within the website? Do you have the option to opt out of information sharing? Look for the BBB on-line seal and other security logos.
10. For on-line protection, use security software and difficult passwords. Download from sites you know and trust.
11. Pre-approved credit-card offers are popular with identity thieves. Have these offers stopped by calling 1-888-5OPTOUT (567-8688) to have your name removed from the credit bureau marketing lists.

Mary Annason—Information & Protective Services Committee

After working as a lumberjack, I tried being a Tailor, but wasn't suited for it - mainly because it was a sew—sew job.

Next I tried working in a Muffler Factory, but that was too exhausting.

SUMMIT COUNTY
RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
\$1000.00 Scholarship Application

Guidelines

1. Must be typed.
2. Must be double spaced.
3. All sections of application must be complete.

Date of application _____

Applicant's full name _____

Street address _____

City, State, Zip code _____

Phone _____ email _____

High School _____ Graduation year _____

GPA _____ (enclose transcript)

College/University to attend _____ Year _____

Post-graduate College/University _____ GPA _____
(enclose transcript)

SCRTA Sponsor _____

Please complete this section in a typed document totaling 500-1000 words for the four prompts.

- A. *Why are you pursuing a career in the field of education?*
- B. *Describe how your favorite teacher, or mentor, inspired you.*
- C. *Describe specific leadership experiences you have had.*
- D. *Explain any work experiences or community service activities in which you have participated.*

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

\$1000.00 SCHOLARSHIPS

Guidelines

The scholarship candidate must meet the following guidelines:

1. Must have graduated or will graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA from an accredited high school (transcript required).
2. If a post—graduate attending college, must have a 3.0 GPA (transcript required).
3. Must be pursuing an education degree.
4. Evidence of college enrollment must be submitted with the SCRTA application form in order to be considered for a scholarship.
5. The Scholarship chairman must receive the scholarship application no later than June 1st of the year of application.
6. The Scholarship Committee will inform the winner no later than July 15th of the year of application.
7. The scholarship winner will be notified and invited to be a guest at a Summit County Retired Teachers Association Luncheon.
8. The applicant must be sponsored by a SCRTA member.

The completed application will be submitted by June 1st 2010 to:

Mrs. Carolyn Vogenitz -
SCRTA Scholarship Chair
3326 Waterside Dr.
Akron, Ohio 44319
Phone - 330 - 645 - 9928