

SCRТА NEWS

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF Ohio Retired Teachers Association August-September 2014

President's Corner



SCRТА IS PITTSBURGH BOUND ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 RESERVATION FORM AND PAYMENT DUE BY FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 2014

Members have asked for trips to be started again! We are happy to be able to say..."We have one for you!" Thanks to Carolyn Vogenitz who offered to be our Travel Director. Carolyn spent a few days in Pittsburgh making arrangements for an ambitious and interesting day in that city. Please fill out the enclosed form and send your payment asap. All details are provided in this newsletter. Family and friends are most welcome to join us.

As we have mentioned quite often in our newsletters, YOU are so important for the growth of our Summit County Retired Teachers Association. YOU have given us names and addresses of retired educators who have worked in or live in Summit County. Educators from other states who live in Summit County are also eligible for membership.

With your help, we soon will be sending out letters to new retirees. On the back of your newsletter is Treasurer, Paul DiMascio's address. Please send potential members' names and addresses to him or bring to the September meeting and give to any of us on the Management Board.

Did you know that we have 149 Public Schools in Summit County with approximately 75,200 students? It would be interesting to note if we have all of the larger school systems represented in our membership.

Do you know retired educators in any of these Summit County Public Schools?

Akron, Barberton, Copley-Fairlawn, Coventry, Cuyahoga Falls, Green, Hudson, Macedonia, Manchester, Nardon, Northfield, Norton, Revere, Springfield, Tallmadge, Twinsburg, Woodridge.

If you do, please tell them about SCRТА! Let them know that we are having Ann Hanning as our speaker for the **September 8th** program. Ann is the Executive Director for the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. This is the group that works very hard to secure our pension benefits.

Hope to see many of you on **Monday, September 8th**. Until then, enjoy the summer days ahead!

As always,
Mary Lou

Meeting Reminder

Please take note that the September Membership Meeting/Luncheon is on the second Monday of the month and not the first because of Labor Day.

Thank you!

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*From the Desk of the
SCRTA Treasurer,
Paul DiMascio*



Treasurer's Report: Account Summaries
Balances as of June 30, 2014

- Checking Account - \$7,144.83
- Savings (Scholarship) - \$1,980.28
- Savings (Life Memberships) - \$2,593.70
- TCU-CD (12 month Mini. Cert.) - \$12,629.17
- Vanguard Account - \$12,585.79

Treasurer's Comments

As you are aware, SCRTA has a savings and investment account. Occasionally the officers are asked why we have this money in these accounts.

As an organization, SCRTA is subject to unexpected fees, charges, and other expenses. The Management Board, over the years, has felt it is a good use of our resources to have these savings in the event of a "rainy day".

Printing and postage for our quarterly newsletter costs approximately \$2,000 a year. We have recently had two unexpected additional expenses. Our tax free status with the IRS lapsed. To be reinstated, we had a \$400 reapplication fee due to the IRS. In addition, we had legal fees of \$2,500 to process the forms required to reinstate our tax free status. We were fortunate to have the funds readily available to cover expenses.

We do not anticipate other large expenditures at this time or in the foreseeable future. Your Management Board and Treasurer work diligently to keep expenditures to a minimum and will continue to do so in the future.

Paul DiMascio,
Treasurer

NOTE: The SCRTA volunteer auditor's position is open to someone preferably with an accounting background. If you are willing to help, please contact Mary Lou Swartz (330-644-2009) or Paul DiMascio ... (330-882-4738).

**General Meeting Program
September 8, 2014**

It's that lazy, hazy time of the calendar year. Many individuals take advantage of this time to relax and regenerate their battery for the coming fall excitement. The politicians have returned to their homes. Not much is happening in the area of new legislation.

However, it is important to keep abreast on what has been happening. Ann Hanning, Executive Director of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA), will be our guest speaker on September 8th. Ann is in the know and will bring us up to date. Be sure to bring any questions you might have about ORTA and/or legislation to the meeting. Ann will be happy to answer them.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer!

Sue Frutchey
1st Vice President & Program Chair

Community Service Announcement



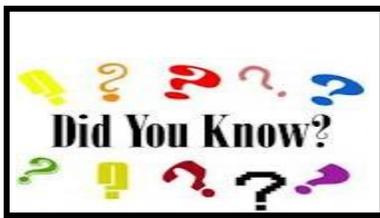
The Community Service Committee continues collecting items (women & men travel/full size health and beauty supplies, & paper and cleaning products) for the Battered Women's Shelter, Haven of Rest, Safe Landing, Good Neighbors and other community agencies.

To receive an extra door prize ticket at the September 8 SCRTA luncheon/meeting, donate five (5) or more of the needed items.

We've received thank you letters from the above agencies and they will be available at the next meeting.

Christine Bean (330-784-4575)
Lennie Green (330-630-2440)





NEW FREQUENT-FLIER RULES

Source: Bottom Line Personal, July, 2014

New frequent-flier rules are rigged against occasional fliers; air travelers need to be savvy customers. For example, starting in 2015, Delta Airline's Skymiles will no longer be one frequent-flier mile for every mile traveled. Instead, you will receive between five and 11 miles for every dollar spent on a ticket. People without elite status with Delta will receive fewer miles. For Southwest and JetBlue Airlines, frequent-flier miles are already based on the money you spend! For the American AAdvantage program, you will need many more than the usual 25,000 miles to get an AAnytime one-way rewards ticket without blackout dates. At least 30,000 to 50,000 miles will be needed to get one of these tickets during peak travel times; 20,000 mile will be needed during slack times.

Travelers should expect more changes to frequent-flier programs to meet the airlines' bottom lines. These changes are not geared to the passengers' advantage. Therefore, it is no longer wise to hoard miles for future leisure travel. Start cashing in your miles; the airlines will continue to make changes; the longer you wait, the less your miles will be worth.

If possible, redeem miles for international travel. Frequent-flier miles are worth more there. If you are not an international traveler, cash in your miles to upgrade a ticket instead. Do not use miles for rental cars or the frequent-flier program's web-site. Do consider using frequent-flier miles on very expensive hotel rooms.

Reward credit cards that offer cash-back deals are better than cards that offer airline miles now. But, do take advantage of credit cards that offer 40,000 to 50,000 miles for a card sign-up that requires expenditure of a few thousand dollars in the first few months, especially if there is no fee for the card for the first year. Then, stop using the airline card and cancel it after you get your bonus and before you are charged an annual fee! On the other hand, it might be worth using that credit card to buy tickets on that airline in order to get free checked bags or other bonuses.

If you fly a lot and have frequent-flier miles with a number of airlines, do a "comparison check." Opt

for Southwest, JetBlue, or Delta Airlines (starting in 2015 for Delta) if your flight is a short one but the ticket is expensive. Use Delta if you have elite status. Use United, American, or other carriers that still use earn-a-mile-for-flying-a-mile method if the flight is long but inexpensive.

In cases where the frequent-flier account holder has died, you may not want tell the airline about this death until you have been able to use accumulated miles. Access his frequent-flier account with all the necessary information using his name and password to redeem miles for reward tickets or other benefits. These tickets can be issued in anyone's name.

Even though the frequent-flier rates are changing, airline ratings are the highest ever in the 24-year history of annual surveys! The study ranked factors such as on-time flights, mishandled bags, and customer service. Virgin American Airline ranked the highest, then JetBlue, Hawaiian, Delta, and Alaska in that order.

For more information, go to AirfareWatchdog.com

Mary Anasson, Chair

Informative and Protective Services Committee

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS



Many thanks to the members who bought raffle tickets at the last meeting. We raised \$265.00 for the scholarship fund. Also thanks to the members who created & donated the raffle baskets.

The 2014 Scholarship Winner is Olivia Michelle Myers. She graduated from Lake Center Christian School in 2013 with a 3.99 GPA. She took 3 years of Spanish, Honors Chemistry & Physics, and AP English her Jr. & Sr. years.

In addition to National Honor Society, she was active in her school, community and church with many volunteer and leadership positions. Michelle took a year off to work to earn money for college. She will be attending Akron University and working toward an early childhood degree. She was thrilled and grateful for the award. Hopefully, you will get to meet her at the September meeting.

Pittsburgh Bound



Summit County Retired Teachers Fall Excursion to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Tuesday, September 23, 2014

\$94.00 (30 or more passengers) \$86.00 (40 or more passengers)

We are planning a day trip to Pittsburgh and hope you will consider joining us. We can not guarantee the Weather; however, if you have not been to the "cleaned up" city with its many skyscrapers we believe you will be pleasantly surprised. Situated in the center of the city is the "Golden Triangle" boasting the confluence of the Monongahela, the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers. Recently \$7 billion in public and private investments helped to upgrade this former steel town.

Our trip will include a visit to the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, a gift to the city from philanthropist Henry W. Phipps. Since 1893 visitors have been drawn to the 17 unique environments within the conservatory.

We will lunch at the popular HOFBRAUHAUS restaurant/brewery.

With all the water that flows through Pittsburgh, a trip on the Gateway Clipper riverboat is a must. It's on our schedule and is a great way to see the area claiming to be America's Most Livable City.

Included in our tour is the Cathedral of Learning on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh. The 42-story building is known as the "world's tallest schoolhouse". Twenty-nine Nationality Rooms represent countries and architecture from around the world. The rooms are used as classrooms; however, many of them will be available for us to visit.

* * * *

COST includes transportation, admissions, lunch, gratuities for bus driver and restaurant personnel.

Full payment of \$94.00 must be made no later than Friday, August 22, 2014. The \$94.00 is based upon 30 passengers on the bus. If we have 40 or more passengers, the cost for the trip will be \$86.00. A refund for the difference between the two will be made depending on the number of passengers.

This is an extremely ambitious schedule and we expect the day to begin at 6:45 am. We hope to be back in the Akron area by 7:00 pm. Payment in full must be made by August 22nd. Make check payable to: Summit County Retired Teachers Association, and mail it along with the reservation form to Carolyn Vogenitz, 3326 Waterside Dr., Akron, OH 44319. No credits or refunds will be issued within 30 days of the trip unless someone else fills your seat. Individuals may find a replacement for their reservation if unable to attend, and must inform us of the name change. A full refund will be given if the trip must be canceled because of low enrollment.

Bus pick up will be at the Goodwill store (next to Guy's Party Center) 570 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron, OH 44319. Load 6:45 am, leave at 7:00 am. Cars should park on the north side of the lot close to Waterloo Road. QUESTIONS - Carolyn Vogenitz, PH-330-645-9928, c-330-329-9929, E-mail wtsdpub@aol.com

**Reservation Information
Pittsburgh Bound
September 23, 2014
SCRTA**



Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Menu choice _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Menu choice _____

* * * *

LUNCH – PLEASE SELECT ONE

Includes refillable soft drink, tea or coffee

Hofbrauhaus Wurstplatte – Grilled Mettwurst, Bratwurst, or Frankfurter served with Sauerkraut & Mashed Potatoes

Kasseler Rippehen – One Smoked and Grilled Center Cut Pork Chop served with Sauerkraut & Mashed Potatoes

Hofbrauhaus Reuben Sandwich – Corned Beef, Sauerkraut, Swiss Cheese and Thousand Island Dressing on Grilled Marble Rye Bread

Schnitzel Sandwich – Fried Breaded Pork Cutlet served on a Sesame Seed Kaiser Roll and topped with Home-made Bier Cheese

Hofbrauhaus Fish Sandwich – Lightly Fried with Leaf Lettuce, Tomato, Red Onion and Pickles on a Sourdough Roll

All sandwiches served with Fries, no Substitutions please

Dessert – Traditional homemade Bavarian Apple Strudel with Powdered Sugar (with all meals)

* * * *

Please enclose a check for \$94.00 per person payable to Summit County Retired Teachers Association and mail it along with this form to Carolyn Vogenitz, 3326 Waterside Dr., Akron, OH 44319.

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **AUGUST 22, 2014**

QUESTIONS - Carolyn Vogenitz, PH-330-645-9928, c-330-329-9929, E-mail-wtsdpub@aol.com

SCRTA / ORTA GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2014

Guys Party Center

500 East Waterloo Road, Akron, OH 44319

12 Noon

Price: \$12.00

DOOR PRIZES

Bring 5 or more items for the Community Service Project and receive an extra door prize ticket.

When you make your reservation, you will need to indicate your entrée: Swiss Steak, Broiled Scrod, Baked Chicken, or Vegetarian Stir Fry. Mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, garlic bread, sherbet, coffee, tea or lemonade are included with you entrée (Tax & tip are included).

Clip this reservation form and send to: **Ruby Winter 3873 Roller Ave., Akron, OH 44319 (330-644-6886)**



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

Check your choice of entrée, make checks payable to SCRTA and send to Ruby Winter. She must receive this completed reservation form and your check by September 3, 2014.

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR SCRTA & ORTA UNIFIED DUES

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ / _____ / _____
Street City Zip

SCRTA / ORTA UNIFIED DUES \$40 _____ OTHER \$ _____ FOR _____
(SCRTA \$10 / ORTA \$30)

SCRTA / ORTA UNIFIED LIFE \$600 _____ YEAR YOU RETIRED _____
(SCRTA \$100 / ORTA \$500) I pay ORTA directly _____

I am a SCRTA LIFE member _____ I am an ORTA LIFE member _____

**BRING THIS FORM WHEN PAYING DUES. MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCRTA.
BY MAIL SEND TO: GENE THRALL 194 CASTLE BLVD., AKRON, OH 44313-6533**

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 August 22, 2014

August-September



SCRTA Website
www.summitcountyrta.org

Leroy Martin - Webmaster
lmartin561@gmail.com

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.



SCRTA Photographer Needed

Do you like to taking pictures of people, places, and events? Do you have your own digital camera? Are you excited about recording pieces of history? Do you use the internet with ease? Are you on Facebook and/or have email? Well then, do we ever have an opportunity for you! A SCRTA photographer's position is open ... just waiting for you!

If interested, please contact SCRTA President, Mary Lou Swartz at 330-644-2009 for more info.



September 8th ... SCRTA / ORTA General Meeting Luncheon ... 12 Noon at Guy's Party Center

Deadline for September 8th SCRTA / ORTA General Meeting Luncheon Reservation is **September 3rd**. Send reservation slips/money to **Ruby Winter**.

September 16th ...Management Board Meeting at the AEA Office Building at **9:30 am**.

November 3rd ... SCRTA / ORTA General Meeting/ Luncheon ... 12 Noon at Guy's Party Center

Deadline for November 3rd SCRTA / ORTA General Meeting Luncheon Reservation is **October 29th**. Send reservation slips/money to **Ruby Winter**.