

SCRTA NEWS

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF Ohio Retired Teachers Association May - June 2013



President's Message

Go to www.summitcountyrta.org

I have a confession to make. The website above is one that I have not visited as much as a President of an organization should frequently review. Have you looked at it? The best part of the website is when we have photos... they are in color! Thank you so much Elaine Jarvis, our newsletter editor, and Leroy Martin, our webmaster. These two people work behind the scenes but contribute so much to SCRTA in time and talent.

Our June 3, 2013 luncheon/meeting will be very important for you to attend because we will be asking you to vote on the updated constitution. The Management Board has accepted the changes and encourages the membership to do so as well. Please read the changes provided to you in this issue. If you have any questions that need answered before the meeting, please contact a member of the Management Board.

Also, at the June gathering, a slate of officers will be presented to serve for the next biennium. (January 2014-November 2015) Nominations will be accepted from the floor... but make sure you have asked the person beforehand. (This happened to me once at a National Convention and I almost had a heart attack right there! I had no clue I was going to be asked to take a position!)

On Friday, April 13th, 2013, Elaine Jarvis and I represented SCRTA at the Ohio Retired Teachers Spring Meeting in Columbus. So much vital information was given to us that we would need an all day workshop to share all the knowledge we tried to absorb. We heard from Jim Dietz, the Legal Counsel for ORTA, about our responsibilities as volunteers. Marla Bump is the new STRS Government Relations Director. I feel she will be the one we will contact when we have issues of concern. Pre-retirement plans for active teachers and a Healthy U program and training were discussed with all the attendees. A number of county associations plan workshops for

both retirees and active teachers and find them really successful. If anything mentioned above sparks an interest in you... please let me know and we could pursue a course of action.

I want to personally thank some very special SCRTA members who are trying their best to recruit new members for our association. A big thank you goes to Maxine Green, Judy Mervine, and Jeanette Scott for their efforts.

Many of you enjoyed the talented youngsters from Miller-South School of the Performing Arts in April... and now in June, let's have a grand showing for the Traveling Exhibit from the Akron Zoo. Statistics say that the best programs you can have are the ones that involve children and animals. We had a great attendance in April... Can we go over 100+ for the animals in June? With your help by inviting others... we can accomplish that goal. As we have mentioned before, the privacy laws are so strict, we are not permitted access to retired teachers' names or addresses from the school systems.

You all are so valuable to the future of Summit County Retired Teachers Association!

See you in June,

Mary Lou

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ATTENTION: SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION



What do you see? Lions and tigers and bears? Oh, my! Close! On **June 3, 2013** at the SCRTA Membership meeting, Akron Zoo representatives will bring some animals from the zoo to explain their habits to us. The selection of animals in the zoo's traveling exhibit will be chosen on the day of the program. Whatever critters are brought, it will be exciting to see and hear about them. (I did request that a snake not be included in the collection of animals.)

I hope to see you on **June 3rd**. As always, there will be delicious food and a chance to visit with friends and also meet new friends from the Akron Zoo.

Suzanne Frutchey, Acting 1st Vice President and Program Chair



The date to submit an application for the SCRTA 2013 scholarship has been changed. The **NEW** date is **June 15, 2013**. Please see complete instructions in the March - April SCRTA NEWSLETTER..either the hard copy or on the SCRTA website ... summitcountyrta.org.

We will award a **\$1,000** scholarship to a student planning to enter the field of education.

The scholarship candidate must meet the following rules:

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 student attending college, must have a 3.0 GPA (transcript required).
3. Must be pursuing an education degree.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Vogenitz, at 330-645-9928.



"The greatest accomplishments in life are not achieved by individuals alone, but by proactive people pulling together for a common good. Our mission in life is to offer our gifts to benefit one another, to create mutual gain in the world. This is called TEAMWORK."

~John J. Murphy

May 29th... Deadline for June 3, 2013 SCRTA / ORTA General Meeting Luncheon Reservations. Send reservation slips/money to **Carolyn Vogenitz 3326 Waterside Dr., Akron, OH 44319**

June 3rd... SCRTA / ORTA General Luncheon Meeting at **12 Noon** at Guy's Party Center. Program: Akron Zoo Traveling Exhibit.

SCRTA Legislative News



Proposed Amendments to the SCRTA Constitution

At the February 26, 2013 SCRTA Management Board meeting, the Constitution Review Committee chair, Elaine Jarvis, presented a report to the board that represented the work of the committee. **The Management Board reviewed the work of the Constitution committee thoroughly after which a motion was made to recommend that the proposed amendments be presented to the general membership for a vote of approval. The motion carried unanimously.**

According to the current SCRTA Constitution, amendments to the document are 1) to originate with the Management Board or a written petition to the Management Board signed by a minimum of twenty (20) members; 2) the Management Board shall review and present proposed amendments to the General membership for voting; and 3) amendments shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present for passage, after such proposed amendments have been published in the SCRTA NEWSLETTER prior to the General Meeting at which a vote is to be taken.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

Article III - Section B, #1 Membership

Amended to read: Active Membership shall be joint membership in ORTA/SCRTA.

Article V - Section C Management Board

Delete: Appoint the three (3) members of the Honor Fund... **The Honor Fund has been dissolved.**

Article VI - Section B, #2 Meetings Special meetings may be called by the **President and/or** by the Administrative Assistant at the written request of five (5) members of the Management Board.

Article VII - Committees Separate Scholarship and Community Service into 2 different committees. Add Webmaster. There will be 15 committees.

Article IX - Newsletter Amended to read ...**All** newsletters shall include a membership form.

Members of the 2013 SCRTA Constitution and Standing Rules Committee: Mary Lou Swartz, Judy Mervine, Paul DiMascio, and Elaine Jarvis. Advisors to the committee were Gene Thrall and Mary Anasson.

Federal and State

Legislative action on Social Security seems to still be on the books, but not much is being done. Check recent ORTA publication for details and Ohio legislation. Inflation (Cost-Of-Living) has been about 2.3% and continues low in this range.

Mr. Stein, STRS Board member, recently remarked that the 13th check is still a consideration if high inflation occurs. This legislation is very helpful for long term STRS retirees. In high inflation years, the STRS Board has approved both the 13th check and the COLA.

The 13th check is determined by a procedure:

1. The STRS Board uses a unit scale - one unit for each year of service
2. One unit for each year into retirement
3. Total units are then added and multiplied by the unit (established dollar amount) for the retiree's check.

Kiplinger Newsletter notes that about 46% of states have made pension changes - many not positive.

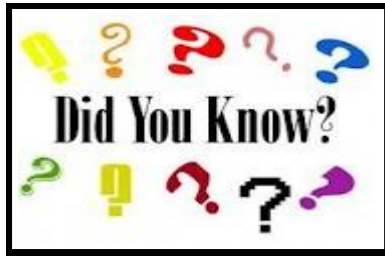
Kay W. Fluke

Legislative Chairperson
Summit County Retired Teachers Association
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"The first thing is to be honest with yourself. You can never have an impact on society if you have not changed yourself. Great peacemakers are all people of integrity, honesty, and humility."

— Nelson Mandela



HOME HEALTH CARE

Almost ninety percent of seniors over the age of 65 want to remain in their own home for as long as possible. Physical and medical problems of aging make this desire difficult at times. This desire can be attained by the careful selection of home health care. Since assisted living averages more than \$40,000 a year, seniors are hiring help at home. This service is the fastest-growing service industry in America today. Part-time help averages about \$21,000 a year. Usually, insurance or the government will not pay this bill.

Remaining in your own home is a viable solution if you select your home health care wisely. Of course, if you have had a hospital stay, your doctor may order short-term skilled nursing care, which is usually covered by Medicare. But, this article is about other times when caregivers need a break or when it is observed by family members that seniors are not taking care of themselves or when seniors are alone and need extra help for day-to-day living.

There are many home health care agencies in our Summit County Community. A good place to talk to representatives of these agencies is at a senior luncheon and forum like the ones sponsored by WAKR/AGMC several times a year. For a nominal cost of a lunch, one can find much information at one of these senior forums along with the nice lunch, entertainment, and prize drawings. One can meet a plethora of home health care representatives there as well as representatives from hearing aid companies, eye care specialists, elderlaw attorneys, as well as some home repair representatives and others.

The kind of home care varies from health aides and nursing assistants to workers who will do light housework and fix meals. The cost is about \$20 an hour through a home health agency to \$250 a day for live-in care. By hiring directly by the individual, the cost might be a third less.

A geriatric-care manager at an hourly cost of \$150 to \$200 can do an assessment of the senior's needs. This

manager will screen candidates and do the background checks of at least three candidates. If you handle this service yourself, then you also need to do the screening and background checking. Health aides and nursing assistants are usually state-certified.

Seventy percent of home health bills are paid out of pocket. Do check other aid options, though. Most long term care insurance policies cover visits when one cannot perform two or three activities of daily living. Most LTC policies have a 60-90 day waiting period, pay \$100 to \$250 daily benefit, and have a three-to-five year maximum coverage. Medicare covers part-time help. Medicare's maximum home care, doctor-ordered, is eight hours a day, 28 hours a week and up to 60 days duration; this all can be doctor-renewed. Medicaid covers part-time help. Medicaid assistance varies by state. It covers two to eight hours a day and the total care cannot exceed the price of a nursing home stay. Also check benefits on-line at benefitscheckup.gov for eligibility and, also, find local services at eldercarelocator.gov.

Mary Kostas Anasson, Chair
Informative and Protective Services Committee
Sources available upon request

Opportunities For Service

We are looking for volunteers to give the inspirational moment/prayer before the meal at our general meetings. If you are interested, please call Christine Bean at 330-784-4575. She would appreciate your help.

There is also an opportunity for you to help with preparing the newsletters for mailing. The process includes folding and putting wafer seals and address labels on them. We presently meet at the Hibernian Club on Brown Street in Akron...usually on a Tuesday morning 3 - 4 weeks prior to the luncheon reservation deadline. It's a great time for fellowship, too. Won't you consider helping with this activity. Call Mary Lou at 330-644-2009 or Elaine at 330-607-0226. Thank you!



Summit County Retired Teachers Association
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U, S, POSTAGE PAID
AKRON, OHIO 44309
Permit No. 418

**DATED MATERIAL...PLEASE
DELIVER BY MAY 23, 2013**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May - June



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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



Dear SCRTA Colleagues,

The Battered Women's Shelter relies heavily on the community for donations of supplies. They have appreciated all of the help they have received from various organizations in the past. Unfortunately they are running low on certain items that are much needed. See the list below:

Paper towels
Toilet paper
Kleenex
30 gallon trash bags
Tall Kitchen trash bags
Fabric softener
Bleach
Dish washing liquid
Household cleaning supplies



Your thoughtful donations will ultimately help those in need. For more info. contact

Christine Bean, SCRTA Community Service Chair

CONTACT INFORMATION



President - Mary Lou Swartz (330-644-2009)
1st VP/ Program - Sue Frutchey (330-753-2474)
2nd VP/Legislative Chair - Kay Fluke
(330-773-2097)
Secretary - Judy Mervine (330-745-7587)
Treasurer - Paul DiMascio (330-882-4738)
Membership/Asst Treasurer - Gene Thrall
(330-867-7208)
Newsletter/Labels/ Computer - Elaine Jarvis
(330-607-0226)
Public Relations - Ruby Winter (330-644-6886)
Scholarship - Carolyn Vogenitz (330-645-9928)
ORTA Past Presidents - Blin Scatterday, Bob Dengler
Members At Large - Paul Green, Mary Anasson,
Christine Bean (Community Service - 330-784-4575),
Gordon Rice
Web Master - Leroy Martin (330-666-3984)

