

SCRTA NEWS

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF Ohio Retired Teachers Association Oct. / Nov. 2022

President's Corner



My Dear Colleagues,

It is with great joy that I share with you that we have an interim President who will take office at our February 15th General Meeting at Guy's Party Center. The interim President will be Mrs. Johnnette Curry who has been our 1st Vice President in charge of Programming.

First of all, I hope that we have as many members at the next Luncheon Meeting in November as we had in September. It was awesome to see so many attendees from Jennings in attendance. We hope that you will join us as members. They looked like they had a great time.

I must share with you that we will be taking a special vote on whether we continue to solicit our members to join ORTA and we continue to collect dues for ORTA, or if we collect SCRTA dues only and let our members join ORTA on their own. Mr. Rayfield of ORTA, prefers that everyone pay ORTA directly. The second issue is to raise our SCRTA dues to \$20.00 a year. Ballots will be given out at the November meeting. **ONLY MEMBERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE!** It will take a 2/3rds vote to pass each issue. Bill Siegfert will walk you through the process and answer questions before the vote. Do not fill out your ballot until Bill shares the reason for taking this vote.

With new members coming on board with new ideas, SCRTA is going to be phenomenal in the next few years. I would suggest members come to a Board Meeting and see what happens during these meetings.

Here are some opportunities for members to support SCRTA. We could use members to shadow our present officers and chairmen. Look at the list of present management members and see if there is an opportunity for you to see if you would like to eventually join our management board. Call me and let me know if you see a position or many positions you might like to shadow.

As usual, we will have a special gift for someone who brings in the most members. If there is a tie, the person who brings in nonmembers who were teachers, would receive that special gift. I also believe we will have a raffle for a basket. So bring some extra change or dollars for tickets.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank some members who have been such a great support

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to me during all of my 7 years as President. Two ladies have kept me organized...Judy Mervine and Elaine Jarvis. Judy, our Administrative Assistant, has kept diligent records of our meetings and sent out messages to the Management Board as needed at my request. Elaine Jarvis, who has been our newsletter editor for ten years, would also give me such good advice when handling some challenging decisions to make during these many years. Thank you, ladies...I could not have done this without your support. I am a random thinker and those ladies kept me in line. lol

There are a few other Board Members who I want to applaud. Christine Bean has supported SCRTA in such quiet ways. She has taken our donations to various charities the entire time I have been President. She also reads the paper each day to keep current on our members who have passed. Christine also has sent out get well or thinking of you cards. She has never said "no" to anything we have asked her to do. Carolyn Vogenitz, thank you for being our travel chairwoman for so many years. Then, when we lost our dear Ruby Winter, you pitched in right away to help in receiving the reservations for our luncheon meetings.

Out of the blue, Vicky Shaw, volunteered to accept the reservations, make the nametags, purchase gift cards, and still work in our major goal of giving out scholarships with Judi Hill. I can't tell you Vicky how much I appreciate all you are doing for our SCRTA!

To Dr. Paul Green and Paul DiMascio, thank you for all of your support during my tenure. Leroy Martin, thank you for all the publicity you have given us on our website. Scholarship Committee members, Judi Hill and Vicky Shaw, you two have made us so proud of the recipients of our scholarships.

Carol Caughron, our Nominations Chair and to your committee of Micki Lavis and Phyllis Lewis, thank you for taking on this important committee assignment.

To Rozanne Emich, thank you for all you do in getting our newsletters out and taking them to the Post Office. A second bravo to our Editor, Elaine Jarvis. Thank you for all the work you do behind the scenes Elaine and especially with starting the Marketing Team.

Can't forget our newer members of the Management Team, Bill Siegfert, Jackie Hovey, and Rebecca Moore! You three are firecrackers for our SCRTA! The future looks great in SCRTA because of all your efforts!

I encourage all our members to bring in some educators from outside of the Akron area. After all, we are to represent all 18 school districts in Summit County.

Thanks to all of our members who have come faithfully to our Luncheon Meetings. It has been my honor to serve you in my position as President. I will continue to be active as the VP of programs!

In years past, I would always end with an Irish Blessing or saying. Yes, I have a German surname, but I am very Irish. Here is my wish for you... May the dreams you hold dearest be those that come true And the kindness you spread keep returning to you.

As Always, Mary Lou

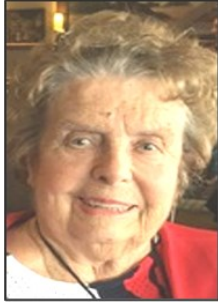


NOVEMBER 15TH PROGRAM

The **Coventry High School Show Choir** will be our special guest at the next general luncheon meeting. The musical group is under the direction of Julie Strebler and comes highly recommended. Invite a friend to join you for lunch, great table conversation, door prizes and great music. You will also receive legislative updates and the latest STRS information. Mark your calendar and join us on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 12:00 Noon, at Guy's Party Center 500 E. Waterloo Rd. Akron, OH 44319. Thank you for your attendance at the September Meeting.

Johnnette Curry. Program and 1st VP

IN MEMORIAM



Suzanne Frutchey passed away on **September 29, 2021**, and joined her husband, Bob, in the heavenly music room playing French Horn duets. Despite being fully vaccinated, Suzanne passed away after a breakthrough of COVID-19.

Born January 11, 1935, in Lansing, Michigan, Sue graduated from Kent State University with a Bachelor and Master of Art. While in college, Sue played the French Horn in the women's marching and concert bands, orchestra and sang in the acapella choir. She was a member of the Tau Beta Sigma women's music honorary.

Bob and Sue were married for 56 years enjoying music, travel, and family activities – and most importantly their love for each other. Sue was a teacher in the Akron and Barberton Public Schools and was recognized as a Jennings Scholar. In her later career, she developed the Substance Abuse and Addiction Prevention program for the Barberton Public Schools and wrote award-winning curricula that were presented in schools across the country.

Sue was a member of the Cuyahoga Falls Community Band and Bethany Band and supported Bob's work with the Kiwanis and the Akron Symphony Orchestra. She was an elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Barberton where she sang in the choir and served in the Soup Kitchen. Sue was an early supporter of the Barberton Mum Fest. She also maintained her active membership in the Summit County Retired Teachers Association and served as President for several years. *Editor's Note: We just learned recently about the passing of Sue Frutchey. We want to honor her legacy in SCRTA.*



Mary Kostas Anasson passed away on **July 30, 2022**. For nearly twenty years she served on the SCRTA board in several positions such as a greeter and historian but most notably as chairperson of Informative & Protective Services.

She gathered useful information on a variety of subjects for members. The helpful facts and words of advice were published in the newsletter under the title "Did You Know?" through 2019. Whether she wrote about travel, nutrition, exercise, banking, heart health, consumer hints, uses for household materials such as baby oil or duct tape, she gave such useful information.

There are a few ways to learn more about a person who passes. One way is to attend the memorial service and hear what others share. Another way is to talk to friends or family. The third is to read the online comments by friends. Some of Mary's former students and younger family members have high praise for her, not only for the business education skills but for the life lessons she taught that have served them so well.



A SCRTA Marketing Team was established this year by the Management Board to help facilitate the rebranding of the Association. The primary goals of the Marketing Team are 1) To better reach Summit County retired teachers and educators throughout Summit County; 2) To provide specific support for at least two Summit County nonprofit institutions and 3) To give more opportunities for SCRTA members to serve and make a difference in the lives of others.



At the October 4, 2022 Management Board Meeting, the board members voted unanimously on a recommendation from the Marketing Committee to officially help provide support to Akron Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio and Akron Shelter Care/Safe Landing. We have been providing help to Shelter Care for several years and are pleased to continue this partnership in our Community. We are looking forward to begin working with RMHC of Northeast Ohio beginning this year. For both organizations, SCRTA members are invited to continue to bring Wish List items to the Membership Luncheon Meetings ... November 15, 2022 and the four Membership meetings in 2023 ... April, June, September, and November. (Some wish List items are posted in the next column.) Your participation and support will be greatly appreciated by both non-profit organizations.

We will be publishing more information in future SCRTA newsletters and on the website, regarding the mission of both nonprofits and we will share other ways for SCRTA members to help make a difference in the lives of the children, youth and their families. In the meantime, feel free to visit the RMHC and Shelter Care websites ... Ronald McDonald House Charities Northeast Ohio (rmhcneo.org) and Shelter Care (SC72.org).

Chris Bean, Community Service Chairperson



Akron House

<u>Kitchen and Pantry</u>	<u>House Supplies</u>
Granola Bars	Body Wash
Microwave Popcorn	Disinfecting Wipes
Mac N Cheese Cups	Snack-Size Zip Lock Bags
Peanut Butter Cups	White Paper Reams
Jelly Cups	Scrubbin' Bubbles
Fruit Cups	Laundry Detergent HE (low sudsing)
Applesauce Cups	Dryer Sheets
Individually Packaged Goldfish	Hand Soap Pumps
Individually Packaged Chips	Hand Sanitizer Pumps
	Paper Towels



SHELTER HOME PROGRAM	SAFE LANDING YOUTH SHELTER (new items)
Soaps	<u>Personal Hygiene items</u>
Shower gels	(same as Shelter Home)
Shampoos	<u>Treats</u> for birthdays and special occasions ...
Conditioners	(watches, jewelry, games)
Deodorants	<u>Clothing (NEW)</u> (socks, underwear, sweat outfits, t-shirts, flip flops)
Toothbrushes	<u>Activity Supplies</u> (card games, sports equipment, craft supplies)
Toothpaste	<u>Household items</u> (wash cloths, towels, pillows, blankets, storage bowls, twin sheets, etc.)
Lotions	
Tissues	

Scholarship News

Great news from Nicholas Ratay, former scholarship winner who graduated this past May 2022 from Kent State University. His update from August 2022:

Hi SCRTA,

I hope you all are doing well! I wanted you to know that last month, I was hired by Walsh Jesuit High School to be their band director. My responsibilities include concert band, string orchestra, marching band, and jazz band. I have had a great time working there; the kids are great, and it is a fun job! I couldn't have gotten here without your support. I am so thankful to have received your scholarships. Thank you all for your help!

Sincerely,
Nicholas Ratay



Nicholas is one of many deserving students that have received scholarships from the Summit County Retired Teachers Association. It is always gratifying to hear the good news of their productivity and perseverance in attaining their degree and moving on to the classroom. It is why we strive to honor these students by presenting a scholarship to lighten their financial burden. We thank all of you for dedication to this mission by providing hope for the next generation.

For the **November Luncheon Meeting**, there will be a variety of methods for everyone to join in helping to raise money for scholarships. Whether you contribute by utilizing the donation cups on the table, purchasing raffle tickets (1 ticket for \$3.00 and 2 tickets for \$5.00) for the Goodie Basket "Raffle Auction", participate in the selling or purchasing of Double Good Popcorn, and/or all three ventures; we thank you in advance.



To participate in the Double Good Popcorn Sale, you can request the link from Vicky Shaw or Judi Hill (Scholarship Co-Chairs) to purchase this delicious popcorn **OR** go the second mile and create a Pop-Up Store of your own to sell popcorn to family and friends by sending them the link. You can also post the link on your social media pages like Facebook, Instagram, etc. Before the fundraiser begins: 1) Download the free Double Good app 2) Enter our **Event Code: LCYNHI** in the app 3) Create your Pop-Up Store (directions on creating the store are given on the app) 4) Start selling the popcorn on November 14th at 5:00 pm. You don't have to take orders or collect money. All orders and payment are done on the link you send from the app!

Please Note: We will be on hand at the Luncheon meeting on November 15th to aid you in this process! And remember the proceeds are split 50/50!

Vicky Shaw and Judi Hill, Co-Chairpersons



We want to welcome new members **Arlene Berentz, Karen Gegick, Cindy Kessler, Joyce Loveas** and **Sharon Withrow**. We also want to thank all the current members that have recruited new members. Many exciting things are happening! If you want to be part of the fun, we can use your help. Call or email me if you want to join our team and help.

*Jackie Hovey
Membership & Assistant Treasurer
330-940-9147
jhoveysue@gmail.com*



State to Finish Audit by Year's End

Ohio State Auditor Keith Faber has predicted that his office will finish its special audit of the STRS pension fund by the end of the calendar year.

Faber's office notified STRS last October that it would be conducting the audit as a result of "several complaints" it had received following the publication of a "forensic audit" paid for by the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. During an interview for The State of Ohio, a PBS station program, Faber said his office had to hire some outside help, but did not name the independent actuarial consultant that was retained. He added, "We don't talk about audits while they're pending, but we have some concerns and things that we're identifying." (If you sense a bit of contradiction there, you're spot on.)

Faber went on to say "...there are other individuals and entities who do oversight on the state pension plans. The Retirement Study Council is the big one. They're the ones that are supposed to be looking at the investment and that history." They certainly have done so. As reported in the last newsletter, last May, the Study Council released the report of its independent fiduciary performance audit of STRS completed by Funston Advisory Services of Bluefield, Michigan. The report praised the Board for acting "in accordance with its fiduciary duties to ensure the sustainability of the fund for the exclusive benefit of current and future members and beneficiaries." The report added that STRS is "operationally excellent," that investment performance is "in the top 25% and costs are consistent with peers" and that member services are "in the top 10% and (related) costs are below peers," Also in May, the Study Council posted the final report from the actuarial audit of STRS conducted by

Pension Trustee Advisors based in Centennial, Colorado, and KMS Actuaries of Manchester, N.H. The report stated that the work of STRS's actuarial consultants (Cheiron and Segal Consulting for the period covered) is "strong, reasonable, consistent and accurate."

We are monitoring the work of Mr. Faber's office. We're assuming that STRS will have an opportunity to review the report and respond to it upon its release, if not before. *Bill Siegfert, Legislative Chair/2nd Vice President*

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Members will be asked to vote at the November 15th General Meeting (luncheon) on two motions approved by the Management Board at its October 4th meeting.

The first motion eliminates the requirement in the SCRTA constitution that members join both SCRTA and ORTA. Membership chairperson Jackie Hovey recently spoke with ORTA leadership and questioned ORTA's direct solicitation of dues from members, bypassing county chapters in the process. Hovey asked leadership if it would be best for SCRTA to collect our own dues and suggest that members wishing to join ORTA do so by paying dues directly to ORTA. Executive Director Robin Rayfield and ORTA president Chris DeMarco both supported that practice. **The Management Board recommends that members vote FOR Motion #1.**

The second motion, if approved, would increase SCRTA annual dues from \$10 to \$20. The constitution does not specify the dues amount. Instead, it simply states that, "*Dues shall be set by a vote of the membership upon the recommendation of the Management Board.*" SCRTA presently has 390 members, 300 of whom are life members and pay no annual dues. That leaves 90 members who pay—or should pay—the annual \$10 dues. The math is simple: assuming all 90 pay the annual dues, net annual income from dues is only \$900. The Management Board has adopted a marketing plan aimed at significantly increasing SCRTA membership. The success of this effort combined with a modest increase in membership dues should allow SCRTA to continue to exist as a viable advocate for and supporter of our county's retired teachers. **The Management Board recommends that members vote FOR Motion #2.**

FROM the SCRTA



The SCRTA Marketing team recently asked that I look through the archives of the Association so we can share details of our history with you. I have had the privilege of reading records from the **Akron Retired Teachers Association** (one of SCRTA's predecessors) archives. In future newsletters, I will summarize more of the history, but for now share the Collect read for years used by the **ARTA**.

First noted November 9, 1937, "The President Mr. Moul called the meeting to order by asking the association to read the **Collect** in concert." A copy was tucked into the secretary's notes a few months later with no mention of the author(s). They kept the tradition until at least July of 1949 ... as noted in the minutes.

After hearing it at our general meeting on September 20, several members asked that we print the statement here.

COLLECT

Keep us, O God, from pettiness, let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face, without self-pity, and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things:

Make us grow calm, serene and gentle.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences.

That in the big things of life we are as one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great

common heart of us all; and, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind.

Rebecca Moore, Chaplain and Historian



MANAGEMENT BOARD

President - Mary Lou Swartz (234-678-0747)

1st VP/ Prog. - Johnnette Curry (330-699-4123)

2nd VP/Legislative Chair - Bill Sieferth
(330-819-4123)

Past President - Paul Dimascio (330-882-4738)

Administrative Assistant - Judy Mervine
(330-745-7587)

Treasurer - Paul Green (330-733-7311)

Asst. Treasurer/Membership - Jackie Hovey
(330-940-9147)

Public Relations - OPEN

Newsletter Editor - Elaine Jarvis (330-607-0226)

Travel - Carolyn Vogenitz (330-645-9928)

Web Master - Leroy Martin (330-666-3984)

Nominating Committee: 3 elected members

Carol Caughron (330-606-6900), Micki Lavis (330-854-3054) and Phyllis Lewis (330-342-3550); **2**

Members at Large Informative and Protective Services—**OPEN; Community Service** - Christine Bean (330-784-4575)

Scholarship Committee - Vicky Shaw (330-773-5862) and Judi Hill (330-688-2512) Co-Chair

Bulk Mailing - Rozanne Emich (330-603-7660)

Chaplain - Rebecca Moore (330-497-9362)

**THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF
IS TO LOSE YOURSELF
IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS.**

GANDHI

SCRTA / ORTA GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Guy's Party Center

500 East Waterloo Road, Akron, OH 44319

12 Noon

Price: \$20.00

DOOR PRIZES AND A SPECIAL PRIZE

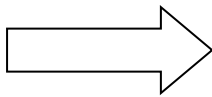
**Bring 5 or more items for the Community Service Project
and receive an extra chance to receive a gift card.**

There will be a special prize for the person who brings the most guests to this meeting.

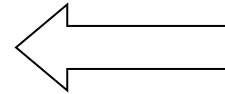
The meal entrées are Beef Tips, Chicken Paradise, and Rigatoni with Meat Balls. Along with the entrées, they will be serving potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls/butter, and desert. Coffee, tea or lemonade are included with your meal. Tax & tip are included.

Clip this reservation form and send to: Vicky Shaw, 1372 Hammel St., Akron, OH 44306

Phone: (330-773-5862)

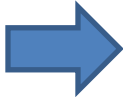


LUNCHEON RESERVATION



NAME _____ PHONE # _____

Please make checks **payable to SCRTA** and send to **Vicky Shaw**. She must receive this
reservation form and your check by **Friday, November 11, 2022**



Our luncheon meetings are on Tuesdays!!



DUAL-MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR SCRTA & ORTA DUES

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ / _____ / _____
Street City Zip

SCRTA / ORTA DUAL-MEMBERSHIP DUES \$40__ (SCRTA \$10 / ORTA \$30)
(Dual-membership required) YEAR YOU RETIRED _____

I am a SCRTA LIFE member _____

I am an ORTA LIFE member _____

I pay ORTA directly _____

School District _____

BRING THIS FORM WHEN PAYING DUES **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCRTA.**
Check # _____ Email: _____

BY MAIL SEND TO: JACKIE HOVEY 1085 COOKHILL CIRCLE, AKRON, OH 44312

September 20, 2022 SCRTA Luncheon Meeting



The SCRTA General Luncheon Meetings provide opportunities for participants to share ideas and receive important info; a time for good conversation to talk about topics outside of business; learn about ways we can serve others in our community to make a difference in their lives; and have fun reconnecting with friends...past and present.



Summit County Retired Teachers Association
452 Herbert Rd.
Akron, Ohio 44312

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

October/November



2022

SCRTA Website
www.summitcountyrta.org

Leroy Martin - Webmaster
lmartin561@gmail.com



Please don't forget to bring 5 or more items to the November 15th luncheon for our Community Service projects to receive an extra chance to win a gift card. Thank you!

*Christine Bean,
Community Service Chairperson*

FACEBOOK

To access the new SCRTA Facebook page, go to the SCRTA website, summitcountyrta.org, and click on the FB icon.



November 15, 2022... (Tuesday) SCRTA / ORTA General Luncheon Meeting ... 12 noon at Guy's Party Center

February 14, 2022 (Tuesday) ... SCRTA Management Board Meeting ... 9:30 am at the AEA Bldg.

February 21, 2023 ... (Tuesday) SCRTA Management Board Meeting Snow date ... 9:30 am at the AEA Bldg.

"A Teacher's Heart Never Retires"