

SCRТА NEWS

Summit County Retired Teachers Association

THE SUMMIT COUNTY AFFILIATE OF Ohio Retired Teachers Association May/June 2023

President's Corner



Thanks to everyone who attended our last general meeting luncheon on April 4th. There was a very good turn out to hear the special guest speaker, Mr. William Neville, Executive Director of STRS. In attendance was also Christina Elliot, Executive Director Member Benefits and Chief Benefits Officer. The question-and-answer period was held at the end of the meeting and so many people stayed to talk to our guests. This was a great opportunity to ask questions and get the latest updates from STRS. Mr. Neville and Ms. Elliot appreciated their time spent with our members.

Membership is an important area our SCRТА chapter is dealing with. Working with our Marketing Team, we are evaluating several creative ideas to help improve and increase our numbers. It is most important that together we do all that we can to stay informed and active as retired educators. In the months to come, you will hear of more activities and receive updated information from SCRТА to help us all stay on top of our retirement. Kudos to Jackie Hovey who works so well in helping members with joining, paying dues and renewing memberships. There were eleven new members who joined at the general meeting. Great job!

Elections for new officers will be coming in the near future and I am encouraging you to consider sharing your skills and talents and come work with the best SCRТА team around. I am looking forward to seeing you at the next general meeting and luncheon on **June 6th**. Invite a friend to come with you. A very interesting presentation will be given on the Ronald McDonald House and it will be the kick-off for a special community project that all SCRТА members can participate in. Come and hear the details.

Stay healthy and safe and I hope to see you on **June 6th**.

Johnnette S. Curry,
SCRТА President



"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." *Winston Churchill*

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**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES'
JEANINE CARROLL TO ADDRESS
JUNE 6TH LUNCHEON CROWD**



As the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer of **RMHC NEO**, Jeanine serves as the chief strategist, leader, evaluator and resource for marketing and communications. She leads the Marketing and Communications team and leverages relationships with key stakeholders to advance the **organization’s MISSION and awareness**, deepen understanding of its programs, services and impact, and promote engagement of diverse audiences. Jeanine also oversees the online program, RedTreehouse.org: Ronald McDonald Family Resource Link.

**RMHC NEO’S PULL TAB PROGRAM
PULL. DONATE. REPEAT**

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Northeast Ohio, Inc. enhances the healthcare experience for families and children through comfort, care, and supportive services. Each year, thousands of families whose children are receiving medical care throughout Northeast Ohio are served through its programs.

RMHC Northeast Ohio collects aluminum pull tabs from any container (soda pop, soup, pet food, etc.) and works with local recyclers to turn those tabs into money for our Family Fund. This fund helps support the families that use its programs by providing needed items for families, assistance in emergencies, and giving families special moments – like small gifts for children if they have a birthday

while staying at one of our Houses. In 2022, community members helped collect more than 22,550 pounds of aluminum tabs, generating approximately \$10,000 in recycling revenue. Pulling Together for the House by collecting pull tabs is a fun and easy way to support families being



Pull for the House.



SCRTA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WILL BE OFFICIALLY INVITED TO JOIN IN THE RMHC PULL TAB PROGRAM AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING LUNCHEON MEETING ON JUNE 6, 2023. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATION BY JEANINE CARROLL, THERE WILL BE A TABLE DISPLAY WITH SOME INFORMATION REGARDING GETTING STARTED.

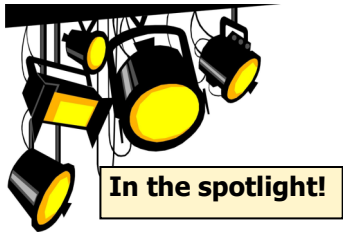


- 1. SIGN UP! JOIN THE PROGRAM!**
- 2. COLLECT THE PULL TABS.**
- 3. WHEN YOU HAVE A SIZEABLE SUPPLY, BRING THEM TO ANY GENERAL SCRTA LUNCHEON MEETING.**
- 4. DEPOSIT THEM IN THE COLLECTION CONTAINER AT THE MEETINGS.**

THE TABS WILL BE DELIVERED TO THE RONALD MCDONALD AKRON HOUSE. THANK YOU! *CHRISTINE BEAN AND ROZANNE EMICH*



NOTE: INCENTIVES FOR JOINING THIS SERVICE PROJECT ARE BEING PLANNED. WE WILL BE MONITORING THE PULL TAB PROGRAM AND REPORTING SCRTA'S PROGRESS TO THE MEMBERS. FOR MORE INFO ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD CHARITIES, VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AT RMHC.ORG!



Mary Lou Swartz



I was born in Kittanning, Pennsylvania. My father was in the military and died in the Battle of the Bulge. He is buried in Belgium's American Cemetery called Henri-Chapelle. A young woman has adopted his grave site and is in contact with me every now and then. The Europeans take good care of their American Cemeteries!

Since I was a war baby, the United States Government paid for my education all the way through my Akron University courses. I majored in Elementary Education with a minor in Criminology! Interesting combination, right?

When I graduated from Our Lady of the Elms, I wanted to enter the convent. My mother told me I needed to experience life first. So, I listened to her.

I have a small family. My brother came along when my mom married again. Gosh, he was 3 when I went to college at 18. Guess who gave me away when I got married? My 15-year-old brother! Now I have a sister-in-law and a niece! My brother has now turned into my dad. Truly, I don't know what I would do without him and his family.

What you probably do not know is that I left teaching in Akron and moved to Troy, Michigan. I taught in Pontiac, Michigan for two years. My assignment was teaching third grade at Central Elementary School. I went through sensitivity training and learned so much about myself. My students were Black, Mexican, and White Children from very poor families. Truthfully, I could write a book about those two years. I did miss my family back in Akron and decided to go back home to be with my family! That didn't last long because I met my husband in January 1971 and married him in August of that same year!

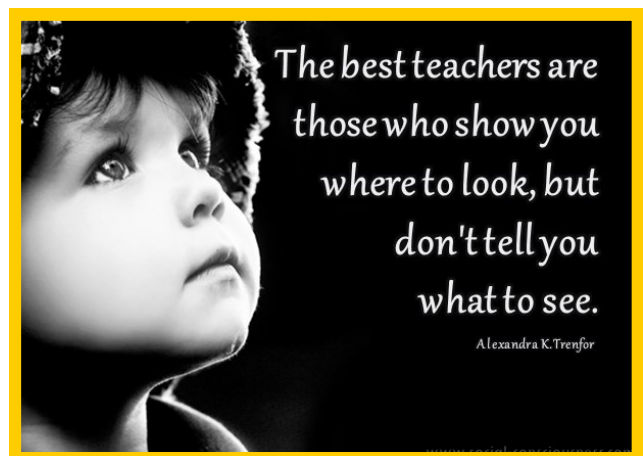
As you may know, I was President of SCRTA for a total of 7 years, but not consecutive years. Now, I am again the VP of Programs for this year! I would encourage all retirees to become involved in SCRTA. We have some awesome new members who have brought some exciting opportunities for us to consider this year!

I am going to stop writing about myself with one last thought. When I left Akron University, a Priest at the Newman Center, plainly said to me, that I should teach in the Public Schools...not the Catholic Schools. I was so surprised because I was substituting in Catholic Schools when I had a chance. I must admit I thought I could never be as good as the nuns. I am so grateful for that advice which I took to heart. I had a wonderful career in education during my 36 years in the Akron Public Schools! My students were respectful, the parents were supportive, and the staff at the three schools where I taught in were like family!

Now you understand why I would be able write a book about my life...there are so many funny things that have happened to me that I haven't shared with you. Maybe I should start writing my book?

As always,
Mary Lou

Note from Mary Lou: *Our new SCRTA President, Johnnette Curry, asked me to write an article for the newsletter about myself. Interestingly enough, I have always thought of writing about my life but with a fake name! Ha! Ha!*



Scholarship News

2023 SCRTA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

It's Scholarship Season!! Your donations through the "giving cups" on the tables at our luncheon meetings and participation in our fundraisers with noted success of the Double Good Popcorn Sale made it possible to award two scholarships. The Scholarship Committee is pleased to present the 2023 SCRTA scholarship recipients and an excerpt of their essay on why they wanted to become an educator.



Mason Williams
Mogadore High School

The main reason I decided to be a teacher is seeing how a good teacher can affect how much I like school, the class, and what I am learning. One of these teachers has been my Chemistry and AP Biology Teacher. He never failed to make the day better when I went to class. He makes sure you understand what he is teaching and that you never fall behind. I want to make sure that students have at least one class where they feel appreciated, and are taught to their potential.



Shirrell White
University of Toledo

Graduating from Firestone CLC, Shirrell is a third-year student majoring in English Adolescent Education. She will study abroad in Vincenza, Italy this summer with the Rocket Kids Program to assist and educate children of military personnel. She states: Education has always been a huge part of my life. Growing up, I was surrounded by educators. Aside from being around educators and simply loving to learn as a whole, my philosophy on education is that when you're a teacher, you are to prepare students to not just succeed academically, but also mentally, morally and emotionally. When you

fully feed into a student, that student will fully feed back into not only themselves, but you too as an educator. This fulfillment of goals and futures is what has kept me motivated to keep pushing toward greater education for the next generation.

And as always, previous recipients update us on how they are managing their studies.

Here is a note from Kathryn Swanson: My first semester went well! I was able to take many of my beginning music education classes, as well as start lessons with my oboe professor. I finished the semester on the Dean's list and learned so much! I have grown so much as a musician, and in learning how to be a music educator and what that will look like as a career. Last semester, I joined Ohio Collegiate Music Educators' Association (OCMEA), a student organization which gives us extra opportunities, such as conferences and seminars, to learn about how to become successful educators.

Overall, I am excited to continue my education and keep learning! This semester is very similar so far to last semester, but in my sophomore year, we will begin to have more opportunities for teaching in the field. I will keep you updated.



2023 MANAGEMENT BOARD OFFICERS

- President** - Johnnette Curry (330-699-4123)
- 1st VP/ Prog.** - Mary Lou Swartz (234-678-0747)
- 2nd VP/Legislative Chair** - Bill Siegerth (330-819-4123)
- Past President** - Mary Lou Swartz (234-678-0747)
- Administrative Assistant** - Judy Mervine (330-745-7587)
- Treasurer** - Paul Green (330-733-7311)
- Asst. Treasurer/Membership** - Jackie Hovey (330-267-9731)



If At First You Don't Succeed...

For the umpteenth consecutive Congressional Session, bi-partisan bills have been introduced in the House (H.R. 82) and the Senate (S. 597) that, if passed, would repeal the windfall elimination provision (WEP) and the government pension offset (GPO) portions of the Social Security Act. The House bill was introduced by Rep. Garrett Graves (R-LA) while Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) did likewise in the Senate.

WEP reduces Social Security benefits for those who also receive a pension or disability benefits from an employer who did not, like school districts in Ohio, withhold Social Security taxes. GPO reduces benefits for spouses, widows and widowers who also receive government pensions of their own. Two and a half million public employees nationwide are affected by WEP and GPO.

While bills introduced previously have not survived, there is cause for hope that something may be passed this session to address the inequities of these two provisions, one of which has been on the books since 1977 (GPO) and the other since 1983 (WEP). The optimism is based on the number of co-sponsors who have signed on to the bills this early in the session compared to previous attempts at passage. As of now, there are 200 co-sponsors in the House compared to only 111 at this time in the last Congress. The number of co-sponsors in the Senate is 35 which is ahead as well compared to this time last session.

Members interested in contacting their senator or representative or both to express support for repeal of WEP and GPO may visit the websites listed below and complete the "contact" form on each:

Sen. Sherrod Brown (brown.senate.gov); Sen JD Vance (vance.senate.gov); Rep. Emilia Sykes, 13th

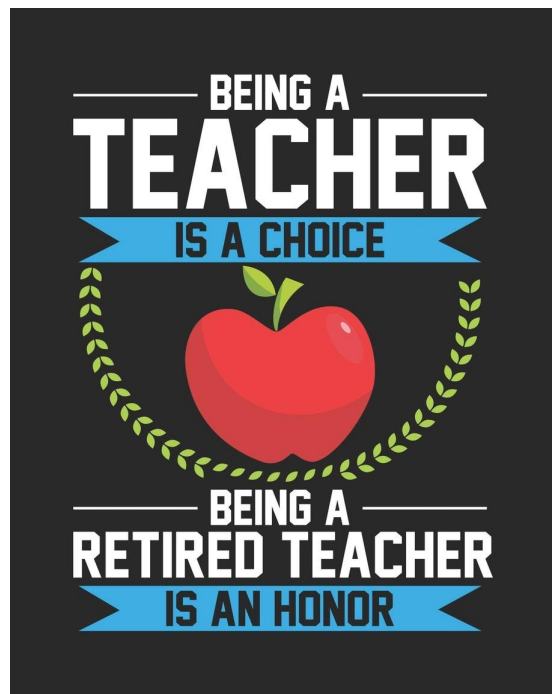
Congressional District (sykes.house.gov); Rep. David Joyce, 14th Congressional District (joyce.house.gov). If you live in neither the 13th nor the 14th District, you can find your District and Representative at www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative.

Neville, Elliott Well Received at Luncheon

STRS Executive Director Bill Neville and Chief Benefits Officer Christina Elliott were guest speakers at SCRTA's April 4th luncheon. Neville used a very informative slideshow to refute several criticisms and inaccuracies about STRS appearing on social media pages. Elliott was just recently named to replace Gary Russell who retired after 28 years in senior STRS leadership. She brings extensive experience in retirement systems and deferred compensation programs in both California and Ohio (including service as the director of Ohio Deferred Comp). From all indications, Ms. Elliott is more than sufficiently equipped to continue the outstanding membership services program at STRS.

SCRTA members interested in receiving a copy of Mr. Neville's presentation can email a request to wsiegferth@gmail.com

*Bill Siegferth,
SCRTA Legislation Chair*





Did you know volunteering is good for your health at any age? It is especially beneficial in older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants.

A recent study (April 2021) published in the Journal of Happiness Studies found that people who volunteer are happier than those who do not. In addition, volunteers were healthier than non-volunteers, being less likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease or chronic lung disease, to have a disability or to experience depression.

Older volunteers who walk more, find it easier to cope with everyday tasks, are less likely to develop high blood pressure and have better thinking skills.

If gardening is not as enjoyable as it used to be because of your painful joints or back, treat yourself to a garden kneeler. The design of a well-cushioned pad will protect your clothes and knees or you can use the bench side to sit when you do your weeding. The bench legs act as handles you can use to steady yourself or push yourself up. This tool makes gardening a more delightful task.

Sunglasses were not originally designed to protect your eyes from the sun. The original idea behind this was so that Chinese judges could hide their facial expressions in court. Today, they mainly serve as protective eyewear and as well as a fashionable accessory.

We know the importance of using sunblock. Did you know the area most prone to skin cancer on the face is also right around the eyes? For the best protection for your eyes, you need sunglasses that block 99% of UVB and 95% of UVA light rays.

Use rubber bands to make cups easier to grip.

Simple rubber bands can be wrapped around cups and mugs to make them easier for weak, shaky, or arthritic hands to grip.

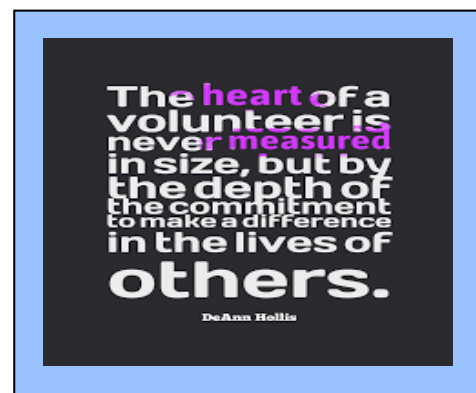
Do you use the internet to put mail on hold during a vacation? To use Informed Delivery? You can use the postal service website to acquire both services. It's easy to sign up for daily emails that provide photos of your mail before it arrives. A free service of the USPS, see <https://faq.usps.com/s/> to find "Informed Delivery" (on the right-side column). It is free.

Nutritionists recommend these snacks to ward off hunger: Nuts, seeds, crackers, popcorn, hummus and veggie sticks, toast, hard-boiled eggs, low-fat cheese sticks, peanut butter on whole grain crackers, and Greek yogurt.

Dr. Joel Fuhrman, MD, uses an acronym to help us remember the five cancer-fighting foods he recommends for daily consumption. The memory device is "G-BOMBS" which stands for Greens, Beans, Onions, Mushrooms, Berries and Seeds. These foods fuel your body with protective micronutrients and phytochemicals that support your immune defenses and have a wide range of health-promoting effects.

You may want to start carrying cash with you when you eat out. More and more restaurants are trying to offset fees they must pay for credit card purchases. The charge for credit card use can be anywhere from 1 to 5%. It is illegal in the U.S. for merchants to surcharge debit cards. However, the restaurants are also charged a small fee for debit card transactions.

Rebecca Moore, Chaplain



Membership

We are off to a great start! 45 have renewed their membership along with 11 new members. We welcome: Mary Jo Austin, Jeanne Conway, Chriss Fulton, Mary Ellen Gresser, Janet Hagstrom, Gwendolyn Hunt, Rosalind Lewis and Hazel Malone retired from Akron Schools. Jodi Tucker retired from Cuyahoga Falls Schools. Roger and Ann Edwards retired from Woodridge Schools.

Our Marketing Team is making exciting progress that will benefit educators new and old. There is always room for members to be involved. We welcome help, a little or a lot!

We have 396 members with around 280 being lifetime members. We have around 71 who need to renew. We appreciate those lifetime members that have stepped up and contributed to our worthy causes.

If you have not renewed this year, please do so to keep getting our Newsletter.

If you have any questions about your membership status, contact me.

Jackie Hovey, Membership Chair

jhoveysue@gmail.com (330- 267-9731)



Thank you Leroy Martin for designing a SCRTA Trifold Brochure that provides an overview of the SCRTA organization. Your efforts are very much appreciated! *Leroy is a Board member and our SCRTA webmaster. (Note: The Trifolds will be printed and ready for distribution soon.) SCRTA Management Board*



Summit County City and Local School Districts

Akron City

Barberton City

Copley-Fairlawn City

Coventry Local

Cuyahoga Falls City

Field Local

Green Local

Hudson City

Manchester Local

Mogadore Local

Nardon Hills City

Norton City

Revere Local

Springfield Local

Stow-Munroe Falls City

Tallmadge City

Twinsburg City

Woodridge Local

Please consider inviting retired teachers in Summit County to visit/join SCRTA! summitcountyrta.org

"A Teachers Heart Never Retires"

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

May/June



2023

SCRTA Website
www.summitcountyrta.org

Leroy Martin - Webmaster
lmartin561@gmail.com



Thank you for all the donations for the
Ronald McDonald House and Shelter
Care - Safe Landing.
Chris Bean, Community Service chair.



June 6, 2023 (Tuesday) ... SCRTA General Luncheon Meeting ... 12 noon at Guy's Party Center

July 11, 2023 (Tuesday) ... SCRTA Management Board Meeting ... 10 am at the AEA Building.

September 5, 2023 ... (Tuesday) SCRTA General Membership Luncheon Meeting ... 12 noon at Guy's Party Center

"A Teacher's Heart Never Retires"



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®
Northeast Ohio**

Ronald McDonald House® of Cleveland
10415 Euclid Ave.
Cleveland, OH 44106
216.229.5757

Ronald McDonald House® of Akron
141 West State Street
Akron, OH 44302
330.253.5400

April 13, 2023

Christine Bean
Summit County Retired Teachers Association
801 Caddo Avenue
Akron, OH 44305

Dear Christine:

*"Thank you for keeping us close to one another and the hospital during our difficult time.
Everything was wonderful...just having the ability to relax meant everything."
-Guest of our Akron Ronald McDonald House*

Your gift of wish list items on April 6, 2023 helps every family we serve find moments to relax and recharge during their child's medical journey. Whether a family stays in a Ronald McDonald House or visits a Ronald McDonald Family Room, they are touched by your generosity. Thank you for keeping our mission alive, providing basic needs, and giving families what matters the most, togetherness.

We cannot serve families without your support and every gift is vital, allowing for moments of respite during very challenging times. THANK YOU!

Gratefully,

Craig Wilson
Chief Executive Officer

*No goods or services were provided to you in consideration of this gift.
This organization is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.*

SCRTA GENERAL LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday, June 6, 2023

Guy's Party Center

500 East Waterloo Road, Akron, OH 44319

12 Noon

Price: *\$23.00

**The raise in cost is due to the increase in food prices for the restaurant.*

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: Micki Lavis 6106 Akron Ave. NW, Canal Fulton, OH 44614
Phone: (330-854-3054)**



NAME _____ PHONE # _____

Please make checks payable to **SCRTA** and send to **Micki Lavis**. She must receive this reservation form and your check by **Friday, June 2, 2023**.



**MEMBERSHIP FORM For
SUMMIT COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

ADDRESS _____ / _____ / _____
Street City Zip

SCRTA MEMBERSHIP DUES **\$20** _____ YEAR YOU RETIRED _____

SCHOOL DISTRICT _____ EMAIL _____

**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO SCRTA. CHECK # _____
BRING OR SEND THIS FORM WHEN PAYING SCRTA DUES.**

FOR ORTA MEMBERSHIP: VISIT <https://www.orta.org/plans-pricing>

I would like to volunteer: Scholarship _____ Luncheon _____ Leadership _____

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