



# TRTA Newsletter

Published for the Trumbull Chapter of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

March 2022

Volume XIII, Number 2

## TRTA General Meeting Dates:

April 12, June 14, August 9, October 11, and December 13 every other month on the second Tuesday, 12:00 Noon, at **Ciminero's Banquet Centre**, 123 N. Main St., Niles, Ohio 44446.

## Program.

The April Program will be Dr. Martha Pallante, YSU professor. Her topic will be "Using Foodways to Trace Your Family Roots".

## Hospitality: Mary Fuller, Chairperson

"The promise of spring's arrival is enough to get anyone through the bitter winter." - Jen Slesinsky.  
The colors of our spring decorations will help us welcome spring's long-awaited arrival.

## Collected at all meetings:

Cancelled and **trimmed stamps**, cell phones, eyeglasses, hearing aids, and yarn. No candle wax or pill bottles!

## Foundation Financial Update:

See a list of donors on our webpage.

## Mailing Meetings:

Won't you please consider joining us to help with the mailing at 9 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Market St., Warren, on May 10, July 19, September 20, and November 15.

## From our President, Marilyn Stanton:

Happy Spring! It's reassuring to know that after all the cold, snow and ice, spring is almost here. I already saw a robin.

I would like to thank everyone for your support and encouragement as I embark on this new venture as your president. You truly are a remarkable group of people! In a world with so much negativity, TRTA is getting positive feedback from all that we are doing. Our speaker from February, Gary Russell, praised our chapter. He visits many chapters and doesn't typically comment. However, he was so

impressed by the number of members present, our projects and the energy in the room. He said that we are among the best chapters he has seen. Keep up the good work, everyone! Stay safe and think "spring".



## Treasurer's Report, February 28, 2022

Checking account balance \$2,997.97  
Savings account balance \$8,556.97  
Community Foundation-Scholarships \$13,196

You may view the detailed treasurer's report on the TRTA website: <https://trumbullrta.wixsite.com/trta>



## TEMPORARY or PERMANENT ADDRESS CHANGES

Whether you are changing your address temporarily or permanently, please contact Dave Ambrose with your new address. The postal service charges TRTA a fee for each returned newsletter.

## TRTA Lifelines

Volume XI, No. 1 compiled by Carol Hart



Lifelines is on hold this month while we make room for a legislative update to follow up the presentation by the STRS at our February meeting. Lifelines will definitely be back in next newsletter!

### Legislative Report Recap

At our February 8 meeting Gary M. Russell, Deputy Executive Director, Member Benefits and Chief Benefits Officer from STRS, presented the latest information affecting retirees. Highlights are as follows:

- The STRS board is considering a two percent COLA; this **one-time payment** will cost our retirement system between **\$1 billion and \$1.25 billion**.
- The STRS board is also considering a change to the current age and service eligibility requirements for active members, which would allow teachers with 35 years of service to retire at any age (eliminating the age 60 requirement set to be put in place in 2026).
- In addition, the board is also considering a reduction in the member contribution rate to 13% from 14%.
- There are 216 benefit recipients who are **100 years of age or older**. The longest paid service retiree is 108 years old and has received a benefit for **52 years**.
- STRS uses **in-house investors**, thus **saving our system \$100 million annually**. STRS investors are paid industry-standard bonuses. If these bonuses were not paid, the investors would work elsewhere, and we would lose their expertise. Would you want your grandchildren to be taught by below-average teachers who barely made it through college?
- There are 157,000 retired members in STRS, including beneficiaries.
- As of June 30, 2021, total investments exceeded **\$94.8 billion**.
- Both **Rita J. Walters, former chairperson**, and **Robert A. McFee, current chairperson**, have asked staff to evaluate the possibility of providing some level of inflation protection for retirees. Studies and audits are **routinely evaluated every five years**.
- Selling the building will not help the fund.
- Within three to four years of retirement, a member's contributions are exhausted. If you live longer than that—and we all hope we will—**your pension is paid from the interest** on STRS investments.
- We are promised a pension. We have access to health care but were never promised it or a COLA.

You will be receiving your **STRS ballot to vote for one retired educator member seat**. Voting begins April 1 and closes on May 2. Mail-in ballots must be **RECEIVED by May 2** so **please consider voting by phone or online to ensure timely delivery**. (The USPS has not been very dependable lately!) Read the accompanying bios of each candidate and then PLEASE VOTE for the best candidate! Board members will have a direct impact on the use of STRS money. The fund needs to be preserved for all recipients, present **and** future.

### Teacher Grant, Diana Bauman and Cindy Harris

Two Teacher Grants were awarded in January. One went to David Murduck, Fifth Grade Science, Champion Middle School, to support a hands-on, place-based innovative garden program that integrates a multi-disciplinary approach. The second was awarded to Josh MacMillan, Art, Hubbard High School. Mr. MacMillan's grant allows his Art 2,3 and 4 students a real-world application in advocacy to the arts within Hubbard Schools by increasing the relationship between the elementary and high school art programs through a detailed coloring book of artwork with art history concepts for Hubbard third and fourth graders. Both teachers will be invited to our August meeting to share their grant projects.



## Luncheon Reservation Tuesday, April 12, 2022

12:00 Noon at Ciminero's Banquet Centre

Please make reservations by April 1, 2022

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch(es) @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Grant Donations: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

If you make a reservation and are unable to attend, regretfully there can be no refunds or carry overs for the next meeting as TRTA has to pay Ciminero's for the lunches ordered.

**A RESERVATION IS REQUIRED; NO WALK INS.** Thank you for your understanding.

Social distancing rules will follow state guidelines.

*The recipient of the free lunch for the April meeting is Diane Ross.*

**Make one check payable to TRTA.**

**Send this form to:**

Dave Ambrose  
2740 Atlantic St. NE  
Warren, OH 44483-4426  
330-647-3666

## May Service Day Project

TRTA members will have the opportunity to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank on Salt Springs Road in Youngstown on May 5, 12, or 19 from 1-3 p.m. This involves sorting and packing dry goods in their warehouse. Up to 15 volunteers per session are permitted. If you are interested, please submit the form below to me either at the TRTA April 12th meeting or email it or call me at 330-402-3902 by April 28. I will contact you to confirm your scheduled time. Thank you in advance.

Jeannie Morello

Complete this form by putting an "X" under the time you are able to help.

Thurs., May 5	Thurs., May 12	Thurs., May 19

Bring this form to the April meeting or send it to:

**Jean Morello**

290 Dakota Ave., McDonald, OH 44437

Email: more290@zoominternet.net

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



## St. Anthony of Padua

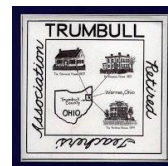
Recently there was a fire at St Anthony of Padua Elementary School in Parma. The teachers are in dire need of supplies of any kind. They lost their life-long collection of educational materials. Monetary donations are accepted. If you would like to donate from your heart, the staff and students would be very grateful. Checks should be made payable to St. Anthony of Padua School and mailed to: St. Anthony of Padua School; c/o 6750 State Road, Parma, OH 44134. Attention: Principal Mr. Kimkewicz An enclosed note or card of encouragement would also be appreciated. Many thanks!

## Necrology Committee Denise Deltondo, Chairperson

At the February meeting, we remembered members lost since our last memorial service. Obituaries can be found on the TRTA website under the *More* tab, *Necrology*. Sincerest thanks to Dave Ambrose, Linda Cowin, and Sue Datish for their assistance.

**TRTA**  
2740 Atlantic St. NE  
Warren, OH 44483-4426

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## **Membership, Luanne Hite, Gretchen LaLiberte, Co-Chairs**

*Dave Ambrose, Dues Coordinator*

Since the January 2022 newsletter mailing, the total number of TRTA members is 379. We still have six members who need to pay their 2022 dues. New TRTA members are Patricia Elliot, Constance Morris, Marisa Termine and Fawnda Barker. This is the time of year when teachers will start submitting their letters of retirement. Keep your eyes and ears open for potential members. Snowbirds: If you are returning to a summer address, remember to update your address information with Dave. Dues and address information should be given to Dave Ambrose. Email: [dambrose1@neo.rr.com](mailto:dambrose1@neo.rr.com) Phone 330-647-3666. Address: 2740 Atlantic St. NW Warren, OH 44483.

## **MEMBERSHIP CARDS**

Dave will continue to print TRTA membership cards upon request. If you are a 2022 member or a TRTA LIFE member and would like a TRTA membership card, please contact Dave by email: [dambrose1@neo.rr.com](mailto:dambrose1@neo.rr.com) or by Phone: 330-647-3666. Your membership card will be available for pick up at the nametag table at the TRTA luncheon meeting, or you may request that Dave mail it to you.

**EMAIL ADDRESS** Let Dave know if you have added or changed your email address; the TRTA board uses email to send important information between newsletters. Email: [dambrose1@neo.rr.com](mailto:dambrose1@neo.rr.com)



**Web Address:** <https://trumbullrta.wixsite.com/trta>—Follow Trumbull Retired Teachers Association on Facebook. Please email comments or corrections for the TRTA Newsletter to Cindy Harris, Editor, at [cindyharris513@gmail.com](mailto:cindyharris513@gmail.com).