

TRTA Newsletter

Published for the Trumbull Chapter of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

September 2020

Volume XI, Number 5

From our President, Sue Datish:

Hello All,

I don't know if I have ever felt so relieved to NOT be going "Back to School"! Our thoughts and hearts are with those working the front lines!



It is with great sadness that we cancel our October Luncheon. There is currently just too much uncertainty in the world. However, Marilyn Stanton has been in touch with the Senior Follies. They are still available to entertain us at our December Luncheon. Our hope is that we will be able to get together for some Christmas cheer.

You should have received an email from Dr. Rayfield as well as myself about the "Protect our Pensions" group. You most likely also received a letter in the mail from them. ORTA is already working to protect your pension as part of your membership. No need to pay a fee to POP5. According to Dr. Rayfield, "ORTA has NO relationship to this group and is not affiliated with this group in any way."

We continue to send pertinent information via email. We have collected 160 of our members' email addresses. We have found that whenever we send out an email around 100 of you open it within the first day. This is by far the most effective way to communicate. If you are not receiving emails from us, please send an email to Dave Ambrose dambrose1@neo.rr.com and ask to be put on the list!

Members Encouraged to Stay Alert for Sales and Email Scams

STRS Ohio was recently alerted that a few members have received an email from a company that used "STRS" in the *From* address. The company offered a virtual consultation to discuss retirement plan rollovers. STRS Ohio does not authorize the use of the system's name in any sales solicitations by outside groups. We have contacted the company involved and told them to cease and desist from using STRS Ohio's name in their marketing efforts.

Legislative *Dottie Fogel, Chairperson*

STRS Executive Director, Mike Nehf, has retired. The STRS Board met in a special session and appointed Bill Neville as the new Executive Director. Mr. Neville has been with STRS Ohio since 2004 as Chief Legal Officer.

Treasurer's Report August 31, 2020

Linda Cowin, Treasurer

Checking account balance \$1,694.68

Savings account balance \$8,554.01

Community Foundation (Scholarship Fund) \$9,521.00

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



TRTA General Meeting Dates

December 10

Every other month on the second
Tuesday, 12:00 Noon

Ciminero's Banquet Centre

123 N. Main Street
Niles, Ohio 44446

TRTA Lifelines

Volume VII, No. 5 compiled by Carol Hart



Although you've probably heard it before . . .

You should have some things in your medicine cabinet at home for our continued fight against COVID-19, our 2020 visitor who just seems to be outstaying its visit. Experts say it's wise to keep medications such as over-the-counter pain relievers and a couple of basic medical devices on hand. A thermometer, even an oral digital one, which is an inexpensive option, is a good device to have. A pulse oximeter is helpful if you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and you need to check oxygen levels. Guaifenesin, found in Mucinex, can be helpful in thinning mucus to make a cough more productive. A scale can help keep tabs on weight for those who are concerned about fluid buildup. In addition, broth and drinks like Pedialyte can help with hydration if someone becomes ill. (*Consumer Reports On Health*, September 2020: pp. 7-8)

Social Isolation

This pandemic has hit many of us hard because we cannot or are not getting out to see others. Social media and distanced visits can help, but we can learn so much also by "attending" virtual classes on our devices. OSU Mahoning County Extension Service offers virtual classes, as do many museums. Dance exercises and Silver Sneakers can also be found online.

September's flower is the morning glory. More people are born in September than any other month! September celebrates chicken, honey, mushrooms, papaya, potatoes and rice! September actually has twice as many "summery" days as June.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Janecko, Teacher, Assistant Superintendent, Warren City Schools, and TRTA Life Member

April 15, 1952 - May 16, 2020

My Dear Friends,

Please do not cry for me because I have been blessed with a beautiful life. You have been so special to me, and I am eternally grateful that you were part of my life.

A dear friend of mine, Jewel Dunne, told me before she passed away to look for her in the Milky Way. I might go visit her there, but it is too high for me to stay long. Rather, I am going to be in the cloud formations.

If I taught with you, remember all the good times and laughs. It was a great career. You made my days memorable.

To those of you with young children, please read to them and take them to church. The Lord is powerful! Make Him a part of your life as I have. You will never regret it.

Please do not be angry with the Lord for not curing me. It was simply not in His plan. My prayer each day during this cancer journey has been, "Lord, grant me courage, strength, and peace, and if it is Your will, healing." I am grateful I received three out of the four. What great gifts!

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for the support you gave me during this past year. The cards, food, visits, and phone calls—I really enjoyed and looked forward to them. All of you made my day in one way or another. Remember, I love each and every one of you. I will be praying for you and your families. Please continue to pray for me.

Excerpts from Betsy's Farewell Letter

Membership

Luanne Hite, Gretchen LaLiberte, Chairpersons; Dave Ambrose, Dues Coordinator

New Retirees 2019-2020 There were approximately 55 new retirees at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We will be contacting new retirees to attend one of our luncheons. If you are acquainted with one of the new retirees, please extend a personal invitation. This seems to work the best.

Temporary, Permanent and Snowbirds Whether you are changing your address temporarily, permanently, or you are a Snowbird, please contact Dave Ambrose with your new address. Email: dambrose1@neo.rr.com
Phone: 330-647-3666 Address: 2740 Atlantic Street NE, Warren, Ohio 44483.

Email Addresses Needed

If you have an e-mail address, please forward it to Dave Ambrose. This will enable you to receive TRTA updates. Email: dambrose1@neo.rr.com Phone: 330-647-3666. Address: 2740 Atlantic Street NE, Warren, Ohio 44483.

Membership Dues for 2021

Dues for 2021 need to be renewed by December 31. Just an early reminder.

Pre-Retirement

Luanne Hite, Gretchen LaLiberte, Chairpersons

Dave Ambrose, Dues Coordinator

The pre-retirement workshop that was scheduled for October 15, 2020, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled to October 2021.

ORTA Update



It seems that there has been a lot of news coming from our parent organization, ORTA. Not sure I understand it all, but let me share a synopsis with you. Please pay attention to any correspondence you get from them. ORTA advocates for all STRS members. Just want to give you a heads up of the possibility of a “forensic audit.”

From Dr. Rayfield, the Executive Director of ORTA . . .

“Recently ORTA joined with a group of individuals calling for an independent forensic audit of the management of the STRS Pension System. This decision was not done in haste nor done because of any one action. This was done as a result of monitoring the actions of STRS and the lack of transparency exhibited by STRS when questions about our pension system have been asked.

In order that STRS members, active and retired, may have some level of confidence and peace of mind, it is time for a true outsider to review what is going on with our pension money. To accomplish this ‘external review’ ORTA seeks to engage Edward ‘Ted’ Siedle. Mr. Siedle is a former attorney with the Securities and Exchange Commission and has a record of successfully uncovering irregularities in the management of pension systems in the US. ORTA is currently attempting to raise \$75,000 through donations from its members and any other individuals that would like to contribute.

ORTA understands that this kind of activity might not be what ORTA members are used to seeing from ORTA. However, the fight for and protection of promised benefits is what lies at the core of what ORTA’s mission statement is.”

How to know what is happening with ORTA:

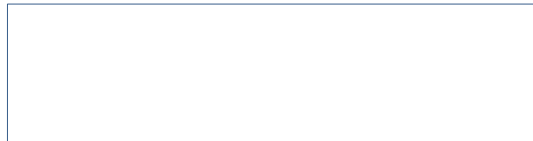
- Check their website www.orta.org. Links to all social media and the podcasts are available here.
- Follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Follow the new ORTA Podcast.
- Read their emails.
- Open your snail mail from them!



T C ORTA

2740 Atlantic St. N.E.
Warren, OH 44483-4426

Nonprofit ORG
U.S. Postage Paid
Warren, OH
Permit NO. 29

**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS!**

This bimonthly newsletter is mailed in January, March, May, July, September and November. If you are away during any of these months, your newsletter will NOT be forwarded or held by the U.S. Postal Service. Since we mail with a bulk rate permit to save expenses, these newsletters are returned to TRTA, and we must pay a "postage due" fee. Help us keep your database entry valid by informing TRTA of address changes. Please contact Dave Ambrose by mailing this form to 2740 Atlantic Street NE, Warren, OH 44483-4426, by email at dambrose1@neo.rr.com or phoning 330-647-3666.

OUT-OF-TOWN ADDRESS, 2020-2021

Member: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Months you will be at this address: September November January March May July

_____ I want my newsletter sent to my snowbird address.

_____ Do not send a newsletter when I am at my snowbird address.

Please note: If your plans change, inform Dave to make database adjustments.

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