



TRTA Newsletter

Published for the Trumbull Chapter of the Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association

November 2025

Volume XVI, Number 6

TRTA General Meeting Dates:
December 9 every other month on the second Tuesday, 12:00 Noon, at **Ciminero's Banquet Centre**, 123 N. Main St., Niles, Ohio 44446.

Meeting dates for 2026 are:
February 9, April 13, June 9, August 11, October 13 and December 8.

Program: Jay Secrest is a local musician and singer. He is the Next Step and Worship Pastor at Perry Christian Church, a non-denominational, in Canton, Ohio. Previously he was a Director, Development American Heart Association, and he held positions at Advantage Home Healthcare.

Hospitality: *Mary Fuller, Chairperson*
"The holiday season is about love. Share it! Spread it! Live it!"--
Amt Leigh Mercree-- A variety of holiday/winter centerpieces, swags, wreaths and lanterns will add a festive note to our luncheon.

Collected at all meetings: Cell phones, eyeglasses, and hearing aids.

Mailing Meetings: Jan. 13, Mar. 10, May 12, July 14, Sept. 8, and Nov. 10. Mailing meetings are held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Market St., Warren at 9 a.m.

From our President, Cindy Harris

As another year comes to a close, so does my term as TRTA President. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your president. Your commitment and generosity to the students, teachers (current and retired) of Trumbull County and the community in general is remarkable. TRTA is one of the largest and most active RTAs in the state, and it is because of each of you. Special thanks to the board and committee chairs and members for their hard work and leadership. Congratulations to Carol Hart as your new president; she will be excellent leader.

Best holiday wishes for the holidays. May they be filled with special moments and memory making with family and friends. May you be blessed with good health and much happiness in 2026.

Happy Birthday TRTA

TRTA turned 60 this year. At our December 9, 2025 meeting, we will celebrate TRTA's 60 years of commitment and service to the students, teachers, and community of Trumbull County.

2025 Retirees

This is the last newsletter you will receive. In January a welcome letter will be mailed encouraging you to join TRTA. Please consider attending one of our general membership meetings to learn more about TRTA and network with fellow retirees.

"Bake It or Make It" Sale

Thank you for your generous contributions of baked goods, crafts, cash, and all additional homemade items for our "Bake It or Make It" Sale. We had a profit of \$865.00. The proceeds will be used for our Teacher Grants during the 2025-26 school year.



Treasurer's Report, October 31, 2025

Checking account balance	\$3737.69
Savings account balance	\$6051.05
Community Foundation-Scholarships	\$15458.97
Teacher Grant Fund	\$4141.31
11 Month CD	\$5049.65

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



TRTA Lifelines

Carol Hart, Volume XI No. 6

Summer into Autumn Tips

Here are some suggestions for a safe transition. Be visible and tidy. Add bright LED bulbs in hallways, staircases and entryways. Keep indoor and outdoor walkways clear – watch for hoses, loose rugs, or wet leaves. Strengthen your base. Wear supportive shoes with non-slip soles – even indoors. If needed, use a cane or walker with proper tips for extra balance. Add supports. Install handrails on both sides of stairs and entry areas. Add grab bars in bathrooms alongside toilets and in showers. Stay warm and comfortable. Dress in layers. Perhaps a cozy cardigan, socks or slippers to keep out the chill. Be sure your socks or slippers have treads on the soles to avoid slipping. Consider doing gentle strength and balance work. Try simple exercises such as chair stands, Tai Chi, heel-to-toe walking, or gentle leg lifts a few times each week. (Shane Owens, RN NR-P | EMS Coordinator, help4seniors.org)

Vaccine Recommendations

Standard suggestions for older adults include: Flu Vaccine, yearly (October is a good time.) Tdap Vaccine, once, repeated every 10 years, Covid 19, yearly, depending on risk factors and age. Talk to your provider about the Pneumococcal Vaccine, as there are two different types. After age 50, it is wise to get the Shingles Vaccine, two doses, two to six months apart. RSV Vaccine is new and at this time, you should talk to your provider. (cdc.gov/vaccines)

Trivia Notes

Impress your friends. Ask what kind of bulbs were once used as currency and what was the original use for the tiny pocket in jeans? (Tulip bulbs, to store a pocket watch)

Membership



Luanne Hite, Gretchen LaLiberte, Chairpersons

Welcome New Members Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members, James Taneri and Susan Gladysz. Both were recent guests at our October meeting. We currently have 341 members. The best way to recruit new members is to invite them to one of our luncheons where they can see TRTA in action. Membership dues for 2026 Dues for 2026 need to be renewed before December 31, 2025, unless you are a life member. If you are not sure of your membership status, check the address label on your newsletter. Annual Membership is \$30; Life Membership is \$175.

Temporary, Permanent, and Snowbird Addresses

Whether you are changing your mailing address or email address temporarily, permanently or you are a snowbird, please contact Sue Datish with your new mailing address or email address. Email: Suedat@gmail.com; Phone: 330-719-1978; or Mailing Address: 1457 Henn-Hyde Road, Warren, OH 44484.

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. Help us keep your database entry valid by informing TRTA of address changes. Note: The newsletter is now sent to all members who have a current email address on file. If you are a snowbird you may want to consider receiving your newsletter via email while you are away.

TRTA Opportunities

TRTA is in need of committee chairs for the following committees: Membership, Public Relations/Publicity and Scholarship. If you are interested, see one of the board members. Perhaps two friends may want to work together as co-chairs. Studies have shown that volunteering can improve mood, decrease stress, and boost happiness! Volunteer to be a chair and improve your life!!!



Luncheon Reservation Tuesday, December 9, 2025 12:00 Noon at Ciminero's Banquet Centre
Please make reservations by December 1, 2025

Member Name: _____ Guest Name: _____

TRTA Member's District of Retirement: _____ Phone number: _____

Email: _____

_____ Lunch(es) @ \$17.00 = _____

Scholarship Donation: _____

Teacher Grant Donation: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Make one check payable to TRTA.

Send this form to:

Linda Cowin

PO Box 152

Leavittsburg, OH 44430

330.219.7271

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 December meeting is Marilyn Stanton.

Membership Dues Renewal (Please check the appropriate box)

Name _____ as you want it to appear on your luncheon name tag.

Email _____ Phone Number _____

_____ \$30 Annual TRTA Membership

_____ \$175 Life TRTA Membership

Please return this application form and check payable to TRTA in the amount of \$ _____ to Linda Cowin.

Legislative Report, Denise Deltondo and Jeff McClain, Co-chairs

STRS/Legislative Information as of Newsletter Press Time The STRS Investment Committee reported at the October 15, 2025, board meeting that the preliminary net total fund return for September was up 1.9 percent. At the close of business on September 30, total fund assets were \$104.1 billion, approximately \$3.5 billion higher in just the past three months while paying \$2 billion in benefits to members. Despite the excellent growth in assets, STRS liabilities continue to grow because of increasing teacher pay, COLAs, the reduction in years of service for unreduced pension benefits, and other benefit improvements/restorations. Cheiron, the board's external actuary, reported an increase in the pension fund's amortization period from 10.1 to 11.8 years. Because of the preliminary injunction issued as a result of the lawsuit filed by OEA, OFT, and the Ohio Conference of American Association of University Professors challenging HB 96's elimination of educator representation on the STRS Board, the restructuring of the STRS Board has been barred, and the current Board will continue to oversee the STRS Pension Fund until a final ruling is made. ORTA supports this lawsuit but has not financially contributed to its filing. Dr. Rudy Fichtenbaum was elected STRS Board chair and Pat Davidson, vice chair.

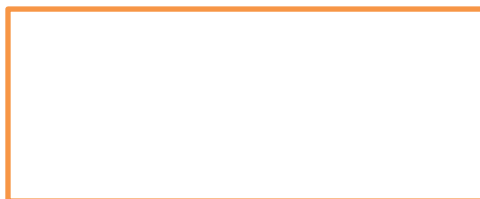
The trial investigating misconduct against Board member Dr. Rudy Fichtenbaum and former Board member Wade Steen began on October 27 in Columbus. The suit alleges the two acted without the best interests of educators in mind and is the result of a 14-page anonymous letter alleging the two had improperly schemed to steer money from the pension fund to investment firm QED. It has since come to light that the chief legal counsel for STRS was partially behind the anonymous letter. The Board ultimately declined any investments from QED, but Ohio Attorney General David Yost filed civil claims regardless. The State of Ohio now wants a judge to bar Fichtenbaum and Steen from ever serving on a public pension board again.

TRTA

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**Community Service, Joyce Mahan, Chair**

Hats (and gloves) off to TRTA members! October's donations went to Small Town Neighbors which helps the children in the Badger school district. This was their 14th annual winter outerwear giveaway. We helped by donating 9 winter coats, 50 stocking caps, 61 pairs of gloves/mittens, 5 hat and glove sets, and 2 scarves. Thank you to Gretchen LaLiberte and Joni Woofert for delivering them in time for this year's giveaway. TRTA's donation will be acknowledged on Small Town Neighbor's Facebook page. Veterans cards were delivered to the Veterans Hospital and Washington Square.

I have plenty of Christmas cards and birthday cards for now, but I'm looking for Thinking of You cards, blank cards, and Veterans cards. Also, be on the lookout for forks and spoons for February's meeting. In December our community service will be monetary donations for Second Harvest Food Bank which helps feed hungry families in Trumbull, Mahoning and Columbiana counties. We will also be signing Christmas cards for the nursing homes. Thank you to Gretchen LaLiberte for providing the apple cut-outs and money for the 60th year celebration favors and to Luanne Hite for her monetary donation towards the favors. We will collect donations for Second Harvest Food Bank at our December meeting.

Scholarship, Vickie Janik, Chairperson

Applications for the TRTA scholarship will be available online the second week of January 2026. Visit **CFMV.org/scholarships** to apply. The scholarship is open to any Trumbull County public high school senior planning on majoring in education or any junior or senior in college who is majoring in an education-related field. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2026.

Boscov Community Day

The purchase of the Boscov Community Day coupons netted \$415.00 which will be used for Teacher Grants. Thank you for your support.

EMAIL ADDRESS Let Sue Datish know if you have added or changed your email address; the TRTA board uses email to send important information between newsletters. If you prefer to read the TRTA newsletters online and avoid printed versions, notify Sue at suedat@gmail.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.