

## THE SLATE

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Gallia County Retired Teachers Assoc.

March – April 2015

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### GCORTA MEETING of APRIL 9, 2015

The April meeting of the Gallia County Retired Teachers was called to order by Donna DeWitt at noon at the Vinton Baptist Church. The opening pledge was led by Jimmy Steele and the blessing for the food was given by Bob Powell. The ladies of Vinton Baptist Church served a delicious meal consisting of meat loaf, potato casserole, green beans, salad, rolls, and assorted desserts.

Birthdays recognized for the months of March and April were: Patty Young, Wanda Willis and Jean Cassidy. Sympathy was expressed for the family of Corliss Miller and a condolence card will be sent. Special guests in attendance were: Wilda McDaniel and Jaime Facemyer.

Speakers for the meeting were Carol Remington, President-Elect of ORTA and Kevin Dennis representing the Field of Hope.

Ms. Remington gave an informative update from the State ORTA. She suggested current members be in communication with younger teachers and newly retired teachers to encourage them to join the association. Members are needed to protect the benefits received from STRS. ORTA is the only organization that works to protect our STRS retirement. She reiterated the importance of STRS keeping Defined Benefits as opposed to Defined Contributions.

On the federal level, repealing the WEP (Windfall Elimination Provision) or HB711 is in process. She informed the group that the statewide project for ORTA for next year will be Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity has 61 affiliates and ORTA has 91 chapters. Ms. Remington encouraged GCORTA to have some type of service project or volunteer hours for Habitat for Humanity in the coming year. The closest Habitat for Humanity to GCORTA would be Athens, OH.

She encouraged members to attend the Statewide Spring Conference in Columbus on April 23.

Mr. Dennis gave an interesting talk on the Field of Hope and all that is being done to reach out to those who are in need of rehabilitation. The statistics that were provided regarding drug usage and drug overdose in the United States and in our local area was astounding! Field of Hope is part of an effort to get our culture turned around and in the right direction. Help is needed from everyone in the community to facilitate this outreach program. It entails a community food pantry, youth center, and, job & life skills training, in addition to, the long term faith-based, non-denominational drug rehabilitation twelve-step program. May 21<sup>st</sup> the Field of Hope will have their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration! After his presentation, a motion was made by Gail Belville to donate \$100 to the Field of Hope. This was seconded by Lois Carter. Motion approved.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Legislative** – No report.

**Community Participation & Volunteer Hours** -Last year Gallia County Retired Teachers had 10,039 volunteer hours with 38 teachers reporting. Karen Cornell encouraged all to become involved in volunteering and to log all volunteer hours.

**Informative & Protective Services** – No report. President DeWitt noted that in the recent STRS newsletter that new enrollment for the Mutual Plus Insurance Plan would be closing on June 1 and would eventually be phased out completely.

**Membership** – No report

**Pre-Retirement Planning** - New retirees will be invited to attend the next meeting in June. Jane Ann Slagle will send invitations to those retiring.

**Public Relations** – still in need of a Chairperson.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Checking Account	\$ 551.77
Scholarship Savings	453.22
Local Life Membership	4,211.93
Scholarship CDs	21,985.02
TOTAL	\$27,201.94

**Secretary’s Report:** Motion to accept the Secretary’s Report was made by Gail Belville and seconded by Dallie Forgey. Motion approved.

**Phone Tree:** Julie Dragoo reported that a new list would be out to callers by next week.

**Webmaster:** We are still in need of a Webmaster. Deloris Allman at the state level has volunteered to update the site until a webmaster can be found.

**Scholarship:** Applications are being prepared to be distributed to the participating schools. Three \$350 scholarships will be awarded this year. The committee would like for the membership to consider increasing the amount to \$500 each starting next year.

**Old Business:**

1. Mentoring opportunities are still available. See Donna if interested.
2. Spring Conference at Fawcett Center on OSU in Columbus, Thursday, April 23 from 9:00-3:00. Registration fee of \$30 includes lunch and materials. Reservations can be made online at [www.orta.org](http://www.orta.org), by calling 614-431-8002 or mailing in the registration form found in the ORTA Winter Quarterly. Reservations need to be made by April 10<sup>th</sup>.
3. Keep addresses current. Member change of address may be given to anyone on the Executive Committee. We need to keep the roster current and updated. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email or mail, let Donna DeWitt know. Current addresses for the following members are needed:  
  
Amy Braverman, Kathryn Bennett and Barbara Mannon
4. Keep bringing pudding cups or giving monetary donations for the service project which is the Gallia Snack Pack Program. Monetary donations would be better for the June meeting due to school being out of session.
5. Scholarship donations are accepted at each meeting.
6. 2015 meeting schedule has been in the past two issues of The Slate. Note June/December date changes.

**New Business:**

1. Membership Drive – Cindy Wilson and Lynn Arnott will be working together to plan a drive sometime in April. New retirees will be invited to the June meeting.

2. A meeting cancellation policy for inclement weather was discussed. There is none in place at this time. The only month that this usually applies to is February. We purposely meet at Golden Corral during that month so we do not need to worry about taking reservations and paying for “No Shows” for pre-ordered meals. Therefore, a cancellation policy is not really needed at this time.
3. Ann Sickels was so appreciative of her “Bag Full of Smiles.” She was amazed that so many people would take the time to write something to her. She said she could hardly wait to start each day with a “smile” or two from the bag. Thanks to everyone who participated in this project.

**Other Business:**

1. Cliff Wilson is in the hospital. A thinking of you/get well card will be sent.
2. A thank you note was received from Deb North for GC RTA’s expression of sympathy at the recent passing of her mother.

**Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, June 18 at First Baptist Church.** \*\*\*Remember.....that meeting menu will be potluck! We will have several guests (scholarship winners, parents and new retirees), so we will need to have enough food to feed everyone. Please keep that in mind when preparing your dish or dishes.\*\*\*

**Raffle Winners:**

Gail Belville, Dallie Forgey, Carol Remington, Marilyn Reese, Lois Carter, Henry Dillon, Jean Moore, Dorothy Ruff, Dixie Golden, Cathy Elliott, Dottie Craig, Jimmy Steele, Sara Spurlock, Patsy Schuldt, Lynn Arnott, Glenn Graham, Mary Lanier, Janet Wetherholt, Donna DeWitt and Cheryl Sheard.

**Attendance:** Lynn Arnott, Jesse Barcus, Gail Belville, Lois Carter, Jean Cassidy, Karen Cornell, Dottie Craig, Jeanine Cunningham, Donna DeWitt, Henry Dillon, Pat Dillon, Julie Dragoo, Cathy Elliott, Ellis English, Andrea Evans, Dallie Forgey, Glenn Graham, Dixie Golden, Marlene Hoffman, Jean Moore, Denise Payne, Bob Powell, Vickie Powell, Marilyn Reese, Dorothy Ruff, Patsy Schuldt, Cheryl Sheard, Norm Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Gene Spurlock, Sara Spurlock, Jim Steel, Janet Wetherholdt, Chris Williams, Wanda Willis, Patricia Young, Mary Lanier, Carol Remington, Wilda McDaniel, Jaime Facemeyer, and Kevin Dennis.

In the picture on the right, Donna is shown presenting Kevin Dennis of FOH with a check surrounded by GAHS Class of 1967.



In the picture on the left, Carol Remington, President-Elect of State ORTA is accepting a basket donation from Donna DeWitt, GCORTA President for the State ORTA Spring Conference. The basket was donated by Raccoon Creek Side Cottage, LLC on behalf of GCORTA. The basket featured all items from Gallia County including: **Raccoon Creek** soaps and lotions from **Wilt Enterprises, LLC**, tea from **A Pup and a Cup Tea Company**, **Ohio Hill Country** honey, and a FREE night stay at **Raccoon Creek Side Cottage, LLC “Meade-Me-at-the-Dam “** rental cottage which is located in Vinton and is owned by Flem and Donna DeWitt-Meade.

**GCORTA AND ORTA MEMBERSHIP** – Please use this form to submit membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

_____ GCORTA – Annual Dues	\$ 8.00
_____ Lifetime-Dues	\$50.00
_____ ORTA – Annual Dues	\$30.00
_____ Lifetime Membership Dues	\$500.00
_____ Total	

Make checks payable to GCORTA for total amount. GCORTA will forward to ORTA.

Memberships can be mailed to: Marlene Hoffman 215 Second Ave. #203 Gallipolis, OH 45631

**ORTA** – Ohio Retired Teacher Association has been helping teachers since 1947.

The Slate

Donna DeWitt

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