

THE SLATE

GALLIA COUNTY CHAPTER of the OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC.

Jan. – Feb. 2015

Highlights of GCORTA Meeting of Feb. 12, 2015

Gallia County Retired Teachers met for their February meeting at Golden Corral in Gallipolis on February 12, 2015. Vice President Ellis English welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting in the absence of President Donna DeWitt. Brent Saunders offered the blessing prior to the members enjoying a delicious lunch.

Ellis recognized the following members who had a birthday in January or February: Ellis English, Sheryl Fallon, Jane Ann Slagle, Richard Unroe, and Pat Dillon. We remembered Debbie North and expressed our sympathy at the passing of her mother. Ellis read a thank you note from Ann Sickles for the garden flag we presented her with last fall. Ann also thanked us for our continued prayers for her during her battle with cancer. We signed colorful notes to give Ann daily encouragement and Donna will present those to her in a "Bag Full of Smiles". Due to weather conditions, guest speaker, Carol Remington from ORTA was unable to attend the meeting.

There was only one committee report by Karen Cornell, Community Participation & Volunteer Hours Chairperson. She gave information on volunteer hours for 2014. She informed the group that 14 people had less than 100 hours; 17 people had 100-499 hours; and, 4 people had 500-900 hours. The top three volunteers were: **Carolyn Anderson** with 900 hours, **Robie Wilson** with 1000 hours, and **Marlene Hoffman** was the top volunteer again this year with 1,700 hours. Karen presented Marlene with a "Volunteer of the Year" plaque. Karen urged everyone to keep track of their volunteer hours for 2015. She reminded us that there are many things that we normally do that can be considered volunteer hours.



Karen Cornell is pictured on the left presenting Marlene Hoffman on the right with her "Volunteer of the Year" plaque.

The treasurer's report was presented by Marlene Hoffman:

Checking-\$389.89

Local Life-\$4,160.54

Scholarship Savings-452.12

Scholarship CD's-\$22,738.67

Total funds—\$27,741.22

Marlene shared information about the current status of the CD's. They will come due in April and at the urging of the executive committee, she is searching for the best investment. The executive committee discussed the funding for scholarships. After looking at the rules covering the CD's, no evidence was found that says the money cannot be used for scholarships, if needed. Rather than have a fund raiser, members will be encouraged to donate a few dollars from time to time for the scholarship fund. Any raffle money in excess of mailing costs for the newsletters will also be added to the scholarship fund.

The secretary's report was included in the last issue of *The Slate* and was approved as presented.

Donna is still asking for someone to volunteer to be the publicity chair. The membership recognized what a great job Donna has been doing in this role to date. The webmaster position also needs to be filled.

Our service project for 2015 will be pudding cups for the Snack Pack program. The calling tree will remind members to bring cups or donate money each meeting. Several members donated money at the meeting. The newsletter is being mailed by French City Press at a reduction in cost to those members who do not get email. We are working on current addresses for several members.

The by-laws were reviewed by the executive committee. The section pertaining to speakers and specifically political candidates states that a candidate may speak briefly at their request. However, the remarks should not only be kept short but also be nonpartisan in nature. Newsletter editor note: ORTA at the state level does encourage state leaders to be invited to local meetings to speak.

The 2015 meeting schedule was in the newsletter. Two changes should be noted to the June and December meetings. The June meeting will be held on the 3rd Thursday and the December meeting will be held on the first Thursday due to the difficulty of finding a venue large enough to accommodate our group. It is anticipated that several teachers will be retiring this year. Lynn Arnott and Cindy Wilson will be actively recruiting new retirees to Gallia County ORTA in the spring and may be asking for your help. New retirees will be invited to the June 18th meeting at First Baptist Church.

Dixie Golden was in charge of the raffle. Winners were: Sheryl Fallon, Jane Ann Slagle, Lois Carter, Gail Bellville, Andrea Evans, Brent Saunders, Lynn

Arnott, Cliff Wilson, and Janet Wetherholt. Prior to adjourning the meeting, it was announced that the next meeting will be on April 9, 2015 at Vinton Baptist Church. Those in attendance at the meeting were: Julie Dragoo, Karen Cornell, Gene Spurlock, Sara Spurlock, Cliff Wilson, Henry Dillon, Pat Dillon, Jane Ann Slagle, Dixie Golden, Marlene Hoffman, Jean Cassidy, Janet Wetherholt, Doris Lanham, Ellis English, Brent Saunders, Lois Carter, Vickie Powell, Bob Powell, Sheryl Fallon, Debbie Rhodes, Andrea Evans, Jeanine Cunningham, Richard Unroe, Lynn Arnott, and Gail Belville.

ORTA SPRING CONFERENCE will be held on April 23, 2015 at Fawcett Center on OSU Campus from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration due by March 31st. A \$30 fee includes lunch & parking. (614) 431-7002

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 9, 2015 at Vinton Baptist Church at noon. The cost of the meal will be \$12. Kevin Dennis of Field of Hope will be the featured speaker.

2015 Gallia County Retired Teachers Meeting Schedule

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	MENU	PROGRAM
Feb. 12	Noon	Golden Corral	Buffet	Carol Remington, ORTA
April 9	Noon	Vinton Baptist Church	Menu - ??? Cost - \$12	Kevin Dennis, Field of Hope
June 18	Noon	First Baptist Church	Potluck	Scholarship Presentations & Recognition of New Retirees & Don Baker, ORTA
August 13	Noon	First Presbyterian Church	Menu - chicken salad, vegetables, & dessert Cost - \$10	Linda Carney of AAA on home & travel safety tips
October 8	Noon	Holzer Health Systems	Menu - ???? Cost - Free	Melvin Biars of Floral Fashion & Speaker from Holzer Hospital
December 3	Noon	Vinton Baptist Church	Menu - ham loaf, potato,	Memorial Service & Christmas

			veg. & dessert Cost - \$12	program and Amy Sisson, Director of Counseling at Wing Haven
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ORTA Mission Statement: The Ohio Retired Teachers Association is the voice of Ohio's retired public educators. ORTA advocates and promotes the improvement of pensions, benefits and services available to Ohio's active and retired public educators. The association represents and takes action on behalf of our constituents to STRS Ohio, the Ohio legislature, and other agencies dealing with retirement issues.

GCRTA and ORTA MEMBERSHIP – Please use this form to submit membership.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone # Home _____ Cell _____

_____ GCRTA – Annual Dues \$8.00

_____ Lifetime – Dues

\$50.00

_____ ORTA – Annual Dues \$30.00

_____ Lifetime Membership Dues

\$500.00

_____ Total

Make checks payable to: GCRTA for total amount. GRTA 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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