

Licking County Retired  
Teachers Association



# NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with Ohio Retired Teachers Association



## Excerpts from June 2011 Meeting By Linda Leffel



### Welcome/Invocation/Lunch:

LCRTA President Fred Ciminello welcomed everyone to the meeting. Member Jim Dawson gave the invocation before the delicious lunch was served by CU Methodist Church members.

### Introduction of Guests:

Fred first introduced Guests Tim Bubb, Licking County Commissioner; John Silva, Licking County Animal Control Center Warden; and Mary Angela Reed, Volunteer Coordinator for Licking County Animal Control Center.

Commissioner Bubb wanted to express his sincere thanks for our recent LCRTA donations of food items to the shelter for the animals. With so many in need of items for food pantries, the animal shelter is often overlooked. Dog Warden John Silva also expressed his appreciation, stating that the shelter provides such an important service to the animals and the community. Animal Shelter Volunteer Coordinator Mary Angela Reed also thanked us for our donations, and invited everyone to come out to check out the animal shelter. She remarked that for those interested, Volunteers are always in demand at the shelter.

Shelter hours are 11 AM - 4 PM Mon-Sat, and 1-3 PM Sundays.

Fred next introduced ORTA Representative Pat Bateman, who reminded everyone to be sure and sign the petitions circulating to get HB 5 on the November Ballot. Pat will be speaking to us at the August Meeting.

### June Program:

Our program was provided by retired 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Alice Hoover, who presented "Rosie the Riveter". Alice gave us much insight into the role of women at home during WWII, providing necessary labor force to produce war supplies—taking on jobs that were very difficult and sometimes dangerous. This changing role during the war would make way for women taking on job opportunities formerly only held by men after the war. We thank Alice for her entertaining presentation.

### Business Meeting:

Our business meeting was called to order following our program.

Minutes from our April meeting were available for anyone still needing to see them; members are reminded that minutes are placed on the LCRTA Website for viewing after the meeting. Any changes or additions can be directed to Eileen McNally or Linda Leffel.

### Treasurer's Report as of June first:

Checking Acct: \$1,268.35 Savings Acct: \$3,330.16

Scholarship Acct: \$1,885.42

CD: \$1,628.59 TOTALS: \$8112.52

### Other Standing Committee Reports

Membership: Eileen shared that we are in need of everyone's accurate addresses and email addresses in order to be sure we are getting out timely information to you. Some members have mentioned that they have not been receiving emails from us; and in looking over our address lists, have found some discrepancies. We also need to have any status changes about members, such as those who have moved, ill, in nursing home, etc. So please-be sure we have any updates.

Scholarship Report: Joan Rittenhouse announced our LCRTA Scholarship recipient for the year: Ashley Shelton of Watkins Memorial HS. Ashley is a very worthy candidate who is a 4.0 student and ranks second in her class. Joan reports that Ashley has wanted to be a teacher since 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Ashley and her parents will be joining us at the August meeting to receive her \$600 Scholarship.

### Announcements from the meeting and Executive meeting:

\*Keep reading info/updates from STRS and ORTA sent out from Eileen and Bob Tharp through email and website.

\*There was some discrepancy also about who constitutes "Honorary Members". Our bylaws will add "those 85 and over will have Honorary Membership" (free local Dues). This is added to the existing bylaws that state that homebound members will have free local dues.

### Inside this Issue

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June, August &  
October Minutes

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our President, Fred

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Ellinger

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Patterson

ORTA Trustee  
Report

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Christmas Joys,  
a poem

Dues information

## LCRTA LEADERSHIP TEAM

JOIN US! We meet the Monday before each luncheon, 2 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church on East Main.

President - Fred Ciminello

Vice-president - Janet Simross

Secretary - Linda Leffel

Treasurer - Sharon Koppert

ORTA Trustee - Eileen McNally

### ***Ad Hoc Committees***

Auditing - Karen Birtcher & Sandy Stoker

In Memorium - Karen Wolford

Luncheon Reservations & Data - Judy Patterson

Luncheon Desk - Wanda Gainer & Barb Bibler

Scholarship - Judy Dearing & Joan Rittenhouse

Web Master & Newsletter Editor - Eileen McNally

### ***Standing Committees Chairs***

Community Services - David Greene

Informative & Protective - Judy Pflaumer

Legislative - Bob Tharp

Membership - Mary Ellinger & Mary Kaschak

Public Relations - Eileen McNally

Pre-retirement Planning - Eileen McNally



Contact anyone on the leadership team.  
Email them at  
[emcnally2535@lickingcountyteachers.org](mailto:emcnally2535@lickingcountyteachers.org)

## EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 2011 MEETING

### **Program.....**

Following Lunch, Fred was to introduce our speaker for this month, Kelly Neil from AARP-but as she hadn't arrived as yet, he went on with our business meeting. Unfortunately, the AARP representative never did show up to speak to us today.

### **Business Meeting....**

President Fred Ciminello then called the business meeting to order at 1 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Minutes....**

As there were no objections, the minutes for the June 8th meeting were approved by the group—as previously read online from the website. Members are reminded to refer to the LCRTA website to find the minutes that Eileen posts online—report any corrections to Eileen or to Linda.

### **Treasurer's Report.....**

Sharon Koppert reports the following as of end of September:

\$1,034.01.....Checking Account

\$1,960.65.....Scholarship Account

\$3,330.57 .....Savings Account

\$1628.59.....CD's

\*Plus--\$98 was given today towards Scholarships!

**TOTALS.....\$7953.82**

### **Committees/Reports/Announcements**

### **Care & Concern...**

Elizabeth reminds everyone to write down names on our Care & Concern list of anyone needing cards and notes from us.

### **Membership.....**

Membership Chair Mary Ellinger welcomed 4 new LCRTA members who joined us for our luncheon today. Also-53 members were in attendance for the luncheon today.

### **Scholarship...**

Joan Rittenhouse introduced this year's LCRTA Scholarship recipient, joining us for today's luncheon. Ashley Shelton graduated from Watkins Memorial HS with a 4.0 grade average all through her high school career! She will be attending Bowling Green University next month, and will be a part of a special Honors Learning Program which includes living in an Honors Dormitory, and also involves special learning opportunities such as travel in US and abroad.

Ashley will major in Secondary Education in English. She thanks LCRTA for the scholarship of \$600 she recently received.

### **Old Business.....**

Fred reminded everyone that we still are in need of someone to step up to be Vice President for our organization. We also need one or two people to serve on the Auditing committee. These positions should be in place by our next meeting—**please consider serving.**

### **New Business.....**

Eileen reports that there has been little info received from STRS & ORTA right now-look for any updates continually on our web site.

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### ***Meet Judy Patterson..***

Judy is the person who sends your cards or emails you about our LCRTA luncheons. She really appreciates your quick responses. Make sure that you say hello at the next luncheon. She is always at the table as you check in.



Those of you with email addresses on file will get updates from LCRTA as we receive news. We don't expect any movement until late next year, but we never know what might happen. If we don't have your email address, send it to

[emcnally2535@lickingcountyteachers.org](mailto:emcnally2535@lickingcountyteachers.org)

*"We must be diligent with our phone calls, our e-mails, our letters and our meetings with legislators."*  
– ORTA President Karen Butt

*"It is most important that we continue to work toward securing the STRS defined benefit pension plan, the fiduciary role of the pension boards and access to affordable retiree health care."* – Ann Hanning, ORTA Executive Director



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, FRED

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Food Pantry. We donated over 350 pounds of food and \$10.00. I know this was appreciated by the local pantry and those that received it. We will continue to bring food items to our meetings in 2012. We will also support the Animal Shelter and Baby Pantry.

Next year I would like to see our organization recognize more clearly our volunteers and the hours they put into their activities.

We have a Vice President for 2012. Thanks to Janet Simross stepping up and volunteering to try the position. Thank you, Janet!



I would also like to thank Karen Birtcher and Sandy Stoker for volunteering to audit our treasurer's book.

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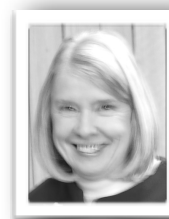
### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

#### Mary Ellinger

As of November 1, 2011, our membership stands at 253. We hope those who have not renewed their 2012 membership will choose to do so. Dues can be paid at any time, but we would appreciate it if they were paid by the February meeting.



Welcome to those who have joined us since July: Barbara Bell, Patricia Denune, David Green, Janet Greene, Sunny Humphrey, Linda James, Pam Kemmenoe, Doug Krueger, Jean McCallin, Dean Somerlot, Sandy Stoker, and Ray Wright. Please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.



Do you know a retired teacher who is not a member? The best way to gain new members is to personally invite them to join you at one of our luncheons. Reach out!

We also need your help in another area. The following is taken from our bylaws:

*Any member who has been active in the Association and becomes permanently confined to the home or an extended-care facility shall be designated an Honorary Member and shall not be required to pay dues.*

*Any member who has reached the age of 85 and has been a member in good standing, shall be designated an Honorary Member and shall not be required to pay local dues.*

We need your help identifying these members. Please let me know.

*Merry Christmas everyone!*

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### WALGREENS PHARMACY IS NOT IN OUR NETWORK

STRS and Walgreens have not been able to negotiate an agreeable contract. This does not mean you cannot use Walgreens as your pharmacy provider. They remain an out-of-network provider. Using an out-of-network pharmacy requires members to pay out of pocket and initiate a manual reimbursement submission. This reimbursement would be at a non-discounted rate. That rate is higher than our mail service or other in-network retail pharmacy discounted rates. Using Walgreens is more costly!

## EXCERPTS FROM OCTOBER 2011 MEETING

### Welcome/Invocation/Guest Introduction/Lunch:

LCRTA President Fred Ciminello welcomed everyone to the meeting, and especially our guests for today: Sheri Hively with United Way of Licking County; Gary Kaylor, AMBA representative; and Dave Lehman, sponsored by Park National Bank. Member Jim Dawson gave the invocation before the delicious lunch was served by the church kitchen staff.

### Program:

First, LCRTA member Ron Cassidy passed out informational packets for individuals to consider contributing to Licking County United Way, and introduced United Way Rep Sheri Hively, who briefly discussed some of the various programs United Way entails. Both reminded us of the tagline for United Way--"If not you, then who?"

Next was Gary Kaylor, SE Ohio District Manager for AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors), speaking to everyone about group endorsed benefit programs available to retired teachers. It's his job to present information on topics we may not be aware of, for instance Long-Term Care Insurance/Home Health Care. Information packets on some available benefits were passed out. You can make an appointment for him to come discuss specifics of these benefits, as well as other options for cancer treatment, and more. You can find out how to obtain these benefits by going online and put in a "code" for available discounts and benefits. Go to [www.AMBA.info](http://www.AMBA.info) to obtain the code information. You can also call 1-800-258-7041. The day's programing ended with Fred introducing humorist Dave Lehman, sponsored by Park National Bank, who presented a program full of humor and "tricks of magic" for us. He reminded us of the health benefits of laughter!

### Business Meeting:

Following the programs our business meeting was called to order by President Fred Ciminello, who reports: Though some officers and Committee Chairmen are still needed, Fred was pleased to announce that Janet Simross has agreed to serve as our Vice President. Motion was made by Jo Ann Stout that nominations now be closed, accepting Janet to office. Motion seconded by Judy Pflaumer. Thanks Janet!

We still need 2 people for our Auditing Committee. Fred has a couple of names suggested whom he will contact, and if we are still in need in December, he will ask for volunteers at that time.

A Community Activities Chairman is still needed. This entails collecting the volunteer hours, organizing food pantry items, and any other community involvement we may have.

Fred thanked everyone for continued support of items for the food pantry-with many items donated at each meeting. Baby items were collected today, and remember Peanut Butter for our December meeting. Our donations have been noticed and are appreciated.

### Minutes

Secretary Linda Leffel gave a summary report of the minutes from our August meeting.

Minutes were approved as read-members are reminded to see full minutes on the LCRTA website, and send any corrections to Eileen or Linda.

### Treasurer's Report

Sharon Koppert read the treasurer's report as follows:

Checking Account: \$991.86      Savings Account: \$3330.57  
Scholarship Account: \$1458.80  
CD Account: \$1628.59      Totals: \$7409.82

### Other Standing Committee Reports:

#### Membership:

At this time we have 252 members, adding a few new members since our last meeting; one-Patty Denune was in attendance today.

Welcome!

#### Scholarship Report:

\$80 + dollars were collected towards scholarship today-Thanks!

#### Announcements from the meeting and Executive meeting:

\*Our bylaws will be verified to allow for "homebound" to be added to the Honorary list as follows: "Membership/Section 3. Any member who has been active in the Association and becomes permanently confined to the home or an extended-care facility shall be designated an Honorary Member and shall not be required to pay dues. Any member who has reached the age of 85 and has been a member in good standing shall be designated an Honorary Member and shall not be required to pay local dues."

\* Remember to place names of anyone needing a note of cheer, etc. in the "Care & Concern" notebook

Old/Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda A. Leffel



May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,  
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,  
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.  
~Author Unknown





## Licking County Trustee Report

By Eileen McNally



We've finally found someone to fill the vacancy of Vice President. Janet Simross will serve in that position for the remainder of this biennium. We are hopeful to fill the vacancies of Community Services and Auditing. Several people have expressed an interest.

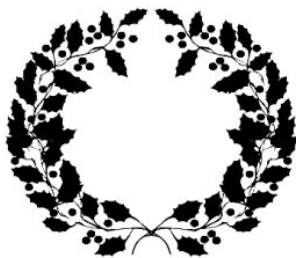
We have next year's programs all lined up. In February we will have Dave Alianiello from Licking Memorial Hospital speaking about exercising during the winter. In April STRS will speak to the Health Insurance issue. In June, a favorite will return. Last June, Alice Hoover presented a super program as "Rosey the Riveter". Next June, she will present a personal approach as we investigate the Civil War. In August Jo Fedor from United Way will speak. In October of 2012, Dave Gynn will speak representing ORTA. Next December we will be entertained by the Land of Legend Barbershoppers.

Although we've lost a few members, we've gained more. Several people joined us within the past six months. We are pleased to welcome Sandy Stoker, Patty Denune, Pam Kemmenoe, Sandy Turco, Jean McCallin, David & Janet Greene, Douglas Krueger, Dean Somerlot, Raymond Wright, and Barbara Bell.

Our web site still proves to be a great asset. Not only are photos posted from each meeting, any relevant news from ORTA or STRS is immediately posted and members are advised of the update. <http://www.lickingcountyteachers.org>

Since there appears to be little legislative movement on the pensions, our executive committee decided that a Pre-retirement seminar next April would prove to be fruitless. We want to present the seminar after the new guidelines are adopted. Teachers in our area have had several seminars (by us and school districts) that covered the "possibilities" any future legislative action may cover. So, we wait.

Licking County will loose its trustee to ORTA at the end of this year. Our close contact with ORTA proved to be quite valuable. We hope that this contact can continue in some way, shape, or form.



### Christmas Quotes

Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ~Norman Vincent Peale

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~Roy L. Smith

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. ~Burton Hillis

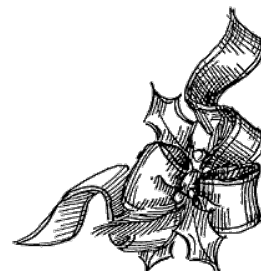
One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly. ~Andy Rooney

There has been only one Christmas - the rest are anniversaries. ~W.J. Cameron

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. ~W.T. Ellis

Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. ~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby

As long as we know in our hearts what Christmas ought to be, Christmas is.  
~Eric Sevareid



# Have you paid your 2012 Dues?

*If not, print this page and remit to Mary.*

## LICKING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS

DECEMBER, 2011

YOUR  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP DUES: LCRTA & ORTA

TO BE PAID BY: February 2012

DESCRIPTION	COST	YOUR AMOUNT
Local Dues for LCRTA	\$ 6.00	
ORTA Yearly dues	\$ 30.00	
Donation to Scholarship Fund (Optional but GREATLY appreciated!)	\$	
TOTAL \$		

ORTA annual dues can be paid locally.

For ORTA you can pay EITHER annually or once for a Life Membership which costs \$500.

ORTA Life Membership can be paid in a lump sum, half payments or quarterly payments. ORTA will arrange those payments with you. Contact them at 614-431-7002.

**You may pay your total above in one check payable to LCRTA.** Pay at December or February or mail to Mary.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Ellinger, Membership Chair LCRTA (phone 345-3172)

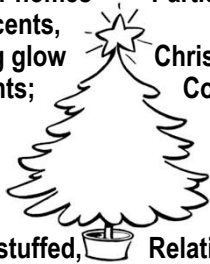
Remit by February 1, 2012

Mary Ellinger, Membership LCRTA

119 Brentwood Dr. NE Newark, OH 43055

## Christmas Joys

Evergreen boughs that fill our homes  
With fragrant Christmas scents,  
Hearts filled with the loving glow  
That Christmas represents;



Parties, songs, beribboned gifts,  
Silver bells that tinkle,  
Christmas trees and ornaments,  
Colorful lights that twinkle;

Christmas cookies, turkeys stuffed,  
Festive holly berry,  
Little faces bright with joy,  
Loved ones being merry;

Relatives waiting with open arms  
To smile and hug and kiss us;  
These are some of the special joys  
That come along with Christmas.

### Calendar

#### February 8, 2012

Stacey's Buffet - 12 Noon  
Dave Alianiello LMH  
Exercising in Winter  
Food Pantry Item: Dog/Cat Food

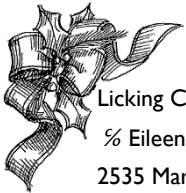
#### April 11, 2012

Heath United Methodist - 12 Noon  
STRS: Health Insurance  
Food Pantry Item: Macaroni & Cheese  
or Spaghetti

#### June 13, 2012

Christ UM Church - 12 Noon  
Alice Hoover: The Civil War  
Food Pantry Item: Hamburger Helper

<http://www.lickingcountyteachers.org>



Licking County Retired Teachers Association

% Eileen McNally

2535 Martinsburg Road

Newark, OH 43055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED