

Licking County Retired  
Teachers Association



# NEWSLETTER

Affiliated with Ohio Retired Teachers Association



## Excerpts from June 2012 Meeting By Linda Leffel



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

LCRTA President Fred Ciminello welcomed everyone to the June

meeting, and especially our guests presenting the program today, and our scholarship recipient and her parents. Everyone was then served lunch by the CUMC volunteers. About 53 were in attendance.

Program: Following lunch Fred introduced Alice and Richard Hoover, who presented a very interesting program of the Civil War era...focusing on the issue of slave trade and conditions and the Underground Railroad, as they portrayed the real-life abolitionist family, Rev. Rankin and family. Out of their 13 children and 6 more adopted, 5 sons and a grandson of the Rankin family fought in the Civil War—and the Rankins would help many, many slaves get to freedom into Ohio for about 45 years. We thank the Hoovers for sharing this interesting story!

### Business Meeting:

Following the program, first on the agenda was Fred calling up Joan Rittenhouse and Mary Ellinger to introduce our 2012 Scholarship recipient. This year's honor goes to a well-deserving student, Gabrielle Palombaro from Licking Heights High School. Gabrielle spoke to our group, and her eloquence, maturity, and passion to become an educator made it very evident why we chose her for this year's award. Gabrielle receives our \$800 scholarship, and will be attending The Ohio State University in fall. She is already a very accomplished young woman during her high school career.

Our business meeting was then called to order by President Fred, who first led us with the Pledge.

Fred introduced our District Representative Pat Bateman who had a few words to say. This is the "Year of the Volunteer", and she had buttons stating this phrase for anyone wanting to purchase one for \$1. We were reminded to continue volunteering where we can (and remember to log in any hours on our volunteer sheets).

Pat also addressed the Education Bill, still "up in the air", taking too much time; it has passed the Senate, but is presently in the House, and it doesn't seem there will be any resolution before the Nov. election. We all need to be looking very carefully at what is finally passed; we want to keep defined benefits.

### Meeting Reports, Announcements & Notes from the Executive meeting:

#### Minutes:

Members are reminded to see full minutes on the LCRTA website, and send any corrections to Eileen or Linda.

#### Treasurer's Report

In Sharon's absence, Fred read overview of the treasurer's report to date as of end of May:

Checking Account: \$1,525	Savings Account: \$3,331
Scholarship Account: \$2,113	CD Account: \$1,655
Totals: \$8,624 (approx.)	

#### Public Relations/Communication:

Look for any updates communicated by Eileen by e-mail and on our website.

Elizabeth Troyer shared to please be sure to add the name of anyone in need to our "Care & Concern" notebook.

### Inside this Issue

Excerpts from  
June, August &  
October Minutes

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Team

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Mary Ellinger

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Ciminello

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opportunity

Poem



## 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

### 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 Green

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  
[webmaster2535@windstream.net](mailto:webmaster2535@windstream.net)

## EXCERPTS FROM THE AUGUST 2012 MEETING

### Program.....

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

LCRTA President Fred Ciminello welcomed everyone to the August meeting, and especially our guests from United Way. Members then had their lunch.

#### Business Meeting:

Fred first introduced Dave Harrington, local representative for AMBA organization who helps us recruit members / offer great deals, benefits for our local chapter members. He assured us he does promote our local organization to area retirees.

Next Fred introduced Pate Bateman our District 6 Director for ORTA. She shared that we need to promote all the wonderful volunteer activities that retired teachers are involved in—we are a group who are very active in our communities. She also announced that on Saturday August 11, from 10 AM- 5 PM there will be an Ohio Retired Educators Appreciation Day, where you can see the Ohio Village Schoolhouse, etc.

#### Program:

For today's program Fred then introduced Deb Dingus, new area director for our area United Way program. The Theme for this year is **Lend A Hand**. Deb shared that United Way holds core values for assisting those in need to help create longer lasting change in people's lives through education, health, income, and

basic needs—to hopefully see less of repeat families, etc. They focus on finding the needs of the community in these areas and what can be done to solve problems in these focus areas. An education panel has been established to address education and improving the graduation rate.

If you have a non-profit organization with a program you feel will have an impact on improving education in our community, there is a form to fill out where you may receive some funding from United Way in order to promote your program.

Deb also reminded us all that following the June storm, needs are greater in our Food Banks and there is a blood shortage for the Red Cross also.

Jeff Brown, Granville Exempted School Superintendent, and United Way representative, shared his appreciation of the positive impact the classroom teacher has on shaping the lives of their students as well as the future of our community. We need to support the ever-changing needs of our community to build success. The programs of United Way can help to improve the success of students remaining in school and becoming a successful community member.

A packet was handed out to all with information and opportunity for us to help United Way agencies through donation.

**Meeting Reports, Announcements & Notes from the****Executive meeting:****Minutes:**

Members were reminded to see full minutes from our June 2012 Meeting on the LCRTA website, and send any corrections to Eileen or Linda.

**Treasurer's Report**

In Sharon's absence, no report was given for this month

**Membership:**

Total membership is about 247; Local only: 25. New member Barb Stockdale joined us today! Honorary Members: 19 (those who don't pay local because of their age 85+)

**Public Relations/Communication:**

Look for any updates communicated by Eileen by e-mail and on our new *free* website

"Weebly" provider.

**Scholarship:**

We are very pleased with this year's recipient who joined us at last meeting—glad we can provide this opportunity for deserving students. Please be sure to add your scholarship donations to the scholarship basket.

**Other Announcements:**

\*FOOD PANTRY: Thanks to everyone's continued support for monthly food pantry donations, which we will continue to do

\*Executive officers, and especially VP Janet, are working on programs and booklet for next year. The Works and Heritage Hall Aging Center tour / luncheons are two new additions.

\*A new President candidate is still needed for next year—voting will be at our next meeting!

\*Executive Officers have worked on a Budget for our next year. A fund of \$100 has been set aside for speakers requiring payment—up to \$50 for two different speakers.

\*Eileen thanked everyone for those who send out cards for "Care and Concern"—especially to Barb Bibler, who was very appreciative.

Other Old Business: None

New Business: None

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE****Mary Ellinger**

Thanks to everyone who paid 2013 dues at the October meeting. If you did not, please consider paying at the December meeting or sending them to Mary as soon as possible – by the February meeting would be great! Dues for LCRTA remain at \$6.00 while ORTA remains at \$30.00.

Please continue to let us know when you reach the age of 85 and you will no longer need to pay local dues. As you can see from the booklet, we have quite a number of folks who have reached that milestone and that's wonderful!

We also need to hear from you if you are aware of an illness or confinement of one of our members. You can let any officer or committee chair know. Elizabeth Troyer continues to send cards to those facing problems if we know about it. We would also like to know of milestones in your lives like birthdays of 80, 85, 90 years and anniversaries of 50 years or more. And as always, if you know of someone has retired from teaching – anywhere, not just Licking CO. – and would like to attend a luncheon, please invite them.

Have a Blessed Holiday Season and a good year in 2013.

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**EXCERPTS FROM OCTOBER 2012 MEETING**Welcome and Lunch

In Fred's absence, Vice President Janet Simross brought the meeting to order, welcoming everyone and opening with words and moment of silence for Fred and his family, due to the tragic death of his wife Kay in a recent auto accident. Janet then led us in singing America the Beautiful and The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation Prayer. A delicious buffet lunch was then served by the church cooking staff. Following lunch Janet had everyone applaud the lunch staff for their efforts.

Program

Eileen McNally introduced our speaker for the day, current ORTA President Dave Gynn. Dave explained that Eileen had been our area Trustee, but LCRTA no longer qualifies to have that by the wonderful volunteering that we teachers are known for, every time you volunteer you are in essence "voting" for the kind of community you want. He urged us all to keep track of our volunteering, and try to do just a little more than we did last year. Also, be sure to report your hours so they can be collected by our chapter, as ORTA combines the volunteer hours from all chapters and then converts these services to equivalent pay of about \$21/hr.--over \$10 million for all of our hours!

Retired teachers certainly contribute a lot! Dave also shared that the new legislation has just been passed for the 5 Ohio Public Employment systems. No others alterations could take place while the current changes were in legislation for the past 3 years. This year there was bipartisan support for the legislation. Future retirees will have to pay more and will work longer in order to sustain a system of defined benefits. Our 3% COLA will NOT be given next year, and then reduced to 2% after that time. COLA is in control of STRS and can make changes when necessary.

ORTA and STRS have worked together well for about 65 years. They both want adequate health care for all. Healthcare has always been provided, and they want to continue to do so, but it is not a guarantee through the legislature. They continue to negotiate with several different companies to offer the best possibilities.

Remember, if you do leave STRS Healthcare, you can not come back to the system. Recent questions have been brought up about changes with doctors and hospitals in-and-out

of network and their co-pay options. Dave mentioned that there are several meetings to address these new healthcare changes-Oct.25 & Nov.9 in Columbus--but Eileen will check on these for everyone, as she thinks the meetings may already been filled. Dave stated that if we have enough interest, a representative may be able to come to Newark for a meeting to address our concerns.

Business Meeting was called to order

Secretary's report: Linda Leffel reminded all to look on the LCRTA website to read the minutes from the last meeting, and address any changes/additions to Eileen or Linda.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon Koppert shared we currently have \$1,355 in our Checking; \$\$\$3,332 in our Savings Account; and \$1,504 in our Scholarship fund.

Membership: Mary reported that some have paid next year's dues today and encouraged all to get dues in at our December meeting. We also welcomed 2 new members today-Gail & Carl Dufford.

Informative Committee: Judy urged all to check for any prescription changes for the next year.

Public Relations: Eileen announced that she is again organizing another Pre-Retirement gathering for active teachers in April 2013 due to all the legislative changes. She will be asking for volunteers to help with refreshments, etc.

Old Business:

David Green reported that many area community groups are supporting the Transportation Initiative to obtain a fixed bus route system for Licking County.

Janet shared that we are so pleased with our latest Scholarship winner. Gabrielle sent us a letter and picture letting us know how she is doing at college, and will continue to send us updates. We really enjoy her keeping us updated on her progress! Janet asked Linda to send her a note sharing our appreciation.

New Business:

The ORTA Recipe book is for sale: \$10/ea. or 2/\$15.

New slate of LCRTA Officers were presented:  
President: Sandy Holcombe  
Vice President: Janet Simross

Treasurer: Sharon Koppert  
Secretary: Linda Leffel

No other nominations came from the group. It was proposed that we unanimously accept the entire slate of officers. Eileen McNally made a motion and Wanda Marshall seconded and all approved the slate as presented.

It was discussed that we change our committees in our by-laws to combine the Legislative and Public Relations groups for more convenience. It was felt that ORTA wants both committees to remain. It was proposed that we table this issue for further discussion. Eileen made the motion, seconded by Jim Brooks; all agreed.

Announcements:

Sandy Holcombe thanked everyone for the "Baby Pantry" items, which are in great need. Her church, Wright Memorial, serves with this only official emergency pantry for babies, and they currently served 138 families.

**A MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING PRESIDENT,  
FRED CIMINELLO**



I want to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart. Your support over the past four years as your president has been wonderful. I've enjoyed the many meetings and chatting with our speakers and members. I am stepping down, but not out of the LCRTA. I will be the new Legislative Committee Chair for the next two years. I want to remain involved. I hope that I get to see many of you at the upcoming meetings. Please stop me to say hello. I wish Sandy Holcombe the best as she assumes the role of president of this fine organization.

Have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Outreach Department at our local library is currently working towards having volunteers take over the delivery of materials to homebound patrons. They are hoping some of our members will be interested in helping get the homebound program off the ground. Deliveries are once every four weeks. At this time they deliver to 4 individual homes and also stop at Arlington Care Center where they serve 4-6 individuals on a regular basis. Volunteers would interact directly with the patrons living at home, however, at Arlington the nurses collect the returns and pick up the new items and distribute them respectively. Suzanne would accompany a new volunteer the first time to ensure all parties are comfortable with the new program. If interested, please contact Suzanne Robinson - Volunteer Coordinator/Outreach Assistant 740-349-5580 [srobinson@lickingcountylibrary.info](mailto:srobinson@lickingcountylibrary.info)

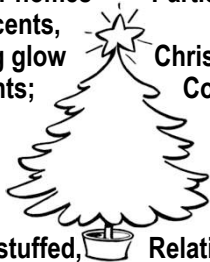
*Bring a retired teacher friend to a meeting!*



Your dues reminder has been included in either your snail mail newsletter or chapter booklet. PLEASE take a minute now and send your dues for 2013 to Mary Ellinger. She will appreciate your promptness!

## 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 6, 2013

Heritage Hall - 12 Noon

Food Pantry Item: Dog/Cat Food

#### April 10, 2013

Heath United Methodist - 12 Noon

Dennis Kohler

Theatrical Presentation

Food Pantry Item: Macaroni & Cheese  
or Spaghetti

#### June 12, 2013

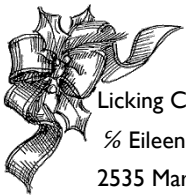
Christ UM Church - 12 Noon

Wilson's Garden Center -

Container Scenes

Food Pantry Item: Hamburger Helper

<http://www.lickingcountyteachers.weebly.com>



Licking County Retired Teachers Association

% Eileen McNally

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED