



(Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association)

ORTA has changed its name to OHIO RETIREMENT FOR TEACHERS ASSOCIATION but will still be known as ORTA. The change is an effort to be more inclusive with respect to Active (contributing) teachers.

ORTA, MOF (Ohio STRS Members Only Forum) and the STRS Ohio Watchdogs formally announce the endorsement for Pat Davidson, Berea School District. **THIS IS FOR AN ACTIVE TEACHER POSITION ON THE BOARD!**

The STRS Board Election occurs in April and ends May 1st. More information on Pat Davidson and how to vote will be forthcoming.



Quick Bio

Pat Davidson

Business & Computer teacher for the past 22 years in the Berea City School District in Northeast Ohio.

Pat teaches his students personal finance every day to his students.

Pat is reform minded and wants change to achieve stronger pensions for all active and retired teachers.

I have three simple goals as your next STRS Board member:

1. Reduce the years of service to be eligible for retirement.
2. Restore a COLA that will allow benefits to keep pace with inflation.
3. Encourage STRS to increase transparency for members.

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO ACTIVE TEACHERS WHO WILL BE VOTING FOR THIS POSITION!

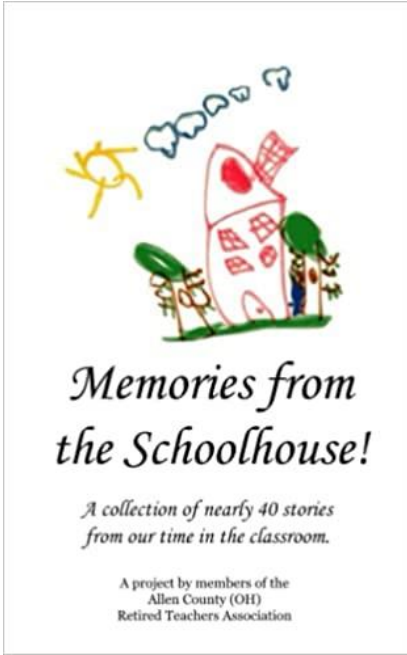
Keep up on the latest STRS information on Facebook by joining these groups:

[Ohio STRS Member Only Forum](#)

[STRS Ohio Watchdogs](#)

ACRTA BOOK PROJECT

Memories from the Schoolhouse!



Book sales are going well! Copies may be purchased at both Readmore Book stores, Brunner News Agency, ArtSpace/Lima, The Allen County Museum, and Educational Providers (Ed Pro, Inc.) Copies may also be purchased from Amazon. The book is available for download on KINDLE (and is a free download if you have KINDLE UNLIMITED!)

Other good news is that a second book is planned! Please send your memories to David Reedy at davidreedy99@gmail.com.

If you don't have email, you may submit them to Norma or Melinda King. We will happily type them and email them to David. Stories may be submitted with your name or anonymously. If you submit under your name, please send a short bio also.

Please submit your stories to davidreedy99@gmail.com. Also e-mail Dave with any questions.

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# 2023 ACRTA Meeting Dates

General Membership Meetings -Lunch at 11:30 a.m. followed by program/meeting

**April 13**    June 1    August 3    October 5    December 7

*Because the April meeting fell during Holy Week, it was voted on at the February luncheon to move the meeting to the following Thursday.*

Board Meetings - 1:00 p.m.

\*May 4    \*July 6    \*September 7    \*November 2

~~~~~ Quotation to Ponder ~~~~~

**“Educations is not preparation for life, education is life itself.”
John Dewey**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

April

Rita Dietrick - 2nd

Linda Evans - 4th

Mary Talley - 6th

Julie Bauer - 9th

Robert Bowerman - 11th

Basilda Rockhold - 15th

Darwin Boertje - 16th

Linda Morrow - 20th

Cheryl Craig - 21st

Marcia Reeves - 26th

Jackson Burklo - 4th

Sharon Rees - 5th

Chuck Schierloh - 8th

David Sandy - 10th

Robert Loescher - 13th

Miriam Warrington - 15th

Herb Lauer - 20th

Joyce Buetner - 21st

Bob Loescher - 23rd

Cheryl Lieurance - 30th

May

Kim Pisel - 1st

Dorothy Reynolds - 4th

Lori Rose - 9th

Peggy Snider - 10th

Carolyn Conner - 15th

Mary Jean Miller - 20th

Patricia Freeman - 26th

Joanne Haidet - 28th

Mary Anne Spurr - 3rd

Pat Scheidler - 7th

Linda Garling - 10th

James Langhals - 11th

Becky Foust - 20th

Mary Howell - 21st

James Penn - 27th

Myrna McCurdy - 28th

**If we have missed you or have incorrect information, please contact us so that we can update our records.

Message from the President

Last month Punxsutawney Phil told us to expect six more weeks of winter. We got it but not all at once, so even though the six weeks have passed, I think we have a bit more to go. The good news is that spring is officially here, plants are pushing their way out of the soil and warmer (but also wetter) days are probably coming soon. I wish you all a Happy Easter and a wonderful spring. Of course, there is that spring cleaning to worry about, too!

Quite a lot has been happening with ACRTA and that will be addressed later in the newsletter. Let's just say, the efforts of ORTA and our retired teachers have been heard and have made an impact! There is still much to say and do to get the reforms we need, but there is progress. It is important that the active teachers vote in the upcoming election for a candidate who will work to protect our pension. Please spread the word!

I again encourage you to support our Dr. John Rockhold Teacher Grant Fund. The money we give to these classroom teachers is used for some amazing special projects and lessons. If you haven't attended the luncheon to see what fantastic things these teachers are doing in their classrooms, please be sure to attend the June meeting. The \$2 from your dues, raffle ticket money, and other donations to the fund have generated some very special experiences for hundreds of students each year. *Proceeds from our very own published book are also supporting this project! (YES, THAT IS A REPEAT FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER!)*

Please invite any retired teachers you know to join us. Each fall we send out several hundred membership letters, but we may miss a few folks here and there. Remember that it isn't necessary that they retired from an Allen County School as long as they are under the STRS umbrella. Spouses and other interested individuals are also eligible to join as non-voting members. Let's increase our numbers!

We are very lucky to have the wonderful women and men from the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Elida. They have faithfully provided us with delicious meals and all other needs from our luncheons. Please thank them when you attend the April meeting.

The April meeting will be our annual Memorial Meeting. The last I heard, we will be remembering upwards of 75 educators. Cheryl Quay and Rose Phillips, with assistance for Bruce and Loretta Hodges, have done an extensive job keeping up with the list of members that we have lost this past year. While this is a somber ceremony, it is also full of fabulous stories and memories. Please join us for this meeting.

Last month we had the pleasure of hearing from Betsy Billingsley of Downtown Lima, Inc. Betsy gave a inspiring presentation of the many changes coming to Lima. I heard many compliments after the meeting, and I passed those along to Betsy. Last week I ran into Betsy at ArtSpace/Lima and reiterated how much we appreciated her speaking to us. She told me that she had given several other presentations since ours, but that none of the groups were as receptive and interested as the Retired Teachers. Kudos to Betsy and to US!

Norma

STRS News

In the past month, there has been a number of events relating to the STRS board and our retirement fund. Below is a summary. For more information check out the STRS Watchdog page on Facebook or our ACRTA Facebook page. John Curry is especially good at keeping us up to date on the STRS news through our Facebook page.

- At the February STRS Board meeting the STRS board rejected a motion of confidence in STRS Executive Director Bill Neville and the direction of the investment fund. The eleven members board was split with five in favor, five against, and one abstention.
- The Toledo Blade continues to report on the flawed investment performance of STRS. It is one of very few newspapers in Ohio to do so.
- The STRS Communications Services Annual Salaries total was \$1,569,920!
- STRS stakeholders are paying full family dental for STRS full-time and part-time associates. In addition, STRS employees have access to a fitness center, beautiful parking tower and full-service cafeteria. And let's not forget that lovely building filled with expensive artwork!
- A newly hired (January) Deputy Executive Director/Chief Benefits Officer is being paid \$122.60 per hour!
- Finally, it is estimated that STRS lost between \$27 million and \$40 million in the Silicon Valley Bank failure. STRS announced that this was a "mere" **.03%** of the retirement fund.

We will continue to update you one further information concerning YOUR retirement fund and the board and paid investors who are managing it!

Board of Directors/Officers and Committees for 2023

| <u>Office</u> | <u>Phone #</u> | <u>E-mail</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| <u>President</u>
Penn, Norma | 419-303-8431 | nleigh27catz@aol.com |
| <u>Past President</u>
Hochstetler, Barbara | 419-303-5667 | bhochstetler001@woh.rr.com |
| <u>Vice Presidents</u>
Quay, Cheryl
Dixon, Kathy | 419-991-4886
419-233-0952 | cdquay@wcoil.com
kathy.r.dixon@gmail.com |
| <u>Secretary</u>
Baumgarte, Carol | 419-692-2552 | 13baumgarte@gmail.com |
| <u>Treasurer</u>
Cramer, Sue | 419-581-1304 | scramer@toast.net |
| <u>Membership</u>
King, Melinda | 567-204-7952 | 4300royalty@gmail.com |
| <u>Teacher Grant</u>
Kohlhorst, Jerri
Schwabero, Mila | 419-991-2838
567-204-8846 | jerrico47@hotmail.com
jschwabero@woh.rr.com |
| <u>Legislative & ORTA</u>
Hodges, Bruce | 419-228-9753 | blhodges@woh.rr.com |
| <u>Wellness</u>
Urish, Jane | 419-991-3966 | urishjo@email.com |
| <u>News & Muse Editor</u>
Penn, Norma | 419-303-8431 | nleigh27catz@aol.com |
| <u>Memorial Service</u>
Phillips, Rose
Quay, Cheryl | 419-228-4328
419-991-4886 | cdquay@wcoil.com |
| <u>Health Insurance Advisor</u>
Bos, John | 419-234-0646 | jojolima@wcoil.com |
| <u>Nominations</u>
OPEN | | |
| <u>Public Relations</u>
Hodges, Bruce | 419-228-9753 | blhodges@woh.rr.com |

Visit our ACRTA website on the ORTA webpage at orta.org. Click on the Our Regions & Chapters tab at the top. Then click on the Northwest Region. Scroll down and click on Allen.

On the home page you will find the white box with three lines. Click on that to see the menu of pages. From there you can go to our meeting dates, officers and chairpersons, membership form, teacher grant information, grant applications, and past newsletters and information about our book MEMORIES FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE.

Contact Barb Hochstetler, bhochstetler001@woh.rr.com, if you would like to see other information on the ACRTA site. Give it a visit and give your feedback.

The ACRTA books were audited and deemed sound! Yippee!

Review of ACRTA financial transactions by Alison Williams on 3/14/23.

Alison has reviewed the transactions for both First Nat'l Bank and The Union Bank checking accounts for ACRTA for the fiscal year of 2022 between 1/1/22-12/31/22. The ACRTA activities included membership income, luncheon costs, book sales and scholarship donations.

The reviewed transactions match the monthly transactions recorded on the monthly treasurer's report for 2022, with the exception of October. The \$250 discrepancy in the bank and treasurer's report was due to an October outstanding check being cashed in November.

Alison has audited the books of ACRTA financial reports with spreadsheets for each account from both banks mentioned above.

Sue Cramer, ACRTA Treasurer

Thanks to Sue Cramer for keeping us up to date and in great financial shape, and thanks to Mila Schwabero for recommending someone to audit the books.

Spring Trivia

1. What does the term "vernal" mean?
2. What bird is often associated with Spring in North America?
3. What is the name of the condition that is marked by an excessive fondness for flowers?
4. The Japanese welcome spring by organizing significant viewings of what flower?
5. In Roman mythology, she is known as the goddess of spring?
6. On the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere, the sun rises directly over what part of the globe?
7. What is another term for the spring equinox?
8. Which ancient building was constructed facing the direction where the sun rises on the first day of spring?
9. What does the word "equinox" mean?
10. In the Southern Hemisphere, which month marks the start of spring? (answers are on the next page)

SPRING VOCABULARY WORD SEARCH



R B Z B V S W W H K F C T Q C
 R S G U O C A W F M O E S F L
 Y H M T N K T V X R O B I N K
 W O Y T O Q G R E E N Y Q W Z
 O W Z E C T T O X T L A Z P A
 T E Y R L I K R O E V H M W Y
 G R Z F E P D J Z A T V O Y K
 A S D L A Q A Y S P P B A G T
 R I M Y N G N W E Y N L J V B
 D K W K I S D T S I Q Y D L L
 E P A Z N M E M A Y F A I W O
 N G N V G V L R S B I E S H S
 U L I O Y K I K J B I Y T Y S
 Z Y N R F L O W E R S C K E O
 Y Q K P I C N I C W O B N U M

BLOSSOM
 BUTTERFLY
 CLEANING
 DANDELION
 FLOWERS
 GARDEN
 GREEN
 MAY
 PICNIC
 RAINBOW
 ROBIN
 SHOWERS



Good Luck!

Trivia Answers

1. Spring
2. Robin
3. Anthophile
4. Cherry Blossom
5. Flora
6. Equator
7. Vernal Equinox
8. Great Sphynx
9. Equal Night
10. September

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| 7 | 1 | | | | | 5 | 9 |
| | | | 1 | 3 | | 4 | 8 |
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| 4 | | 3 | 2 | | | | |
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| | 6 | | 5 | | | | 7 |
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2023 ALLEN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2023

ACRTA Dues: \$12.00

ACRTA \$12.00 _____ ORTA \$30.00 _____ GRANT DONATION (optional) _____

New _____ Former _____ Continuing _____

Date paid _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Birthday (mo) _____ (day) _____

EMAIL _____

Please complete this form and return with
Cash/check **WRITTEN TO ACRTA.**

Send to: Melinda King

4300 Alix Dr. Elida, OH 45807

419-339-6993 or 567-204-7952

4300 royalty@gmail.com

Welcome to the ACRTA!

**Please share a copy with your spouse, another retiree, or any
person interested in ACRTA.**

Associate membership shall be open to any active teacher or other person interested in the work of this Association and approved by the Board of Directors. An associate member shall have membership rights and privileges, except the right to vote, hold office or to represent the Association.

ACRTA General Meeting

February 2, 2023

Elida Immanuel UMC

Called to Order 1:00 pm

Secretary's Report: None Given

Treasurer's Report: Sue Total Balance: \$7,033.83

Teacher Grant Current Balance: \$1,068.15

(general fund owed: \$751.10)

Membership: Melinda – 160 members

ORTA: Important to follow several sources for information about the news given.

Accuracy of reporting is important when reporting by TV, Radio, Newspaper, Social Media and personal conversations.

New Board Member Election representing active teachers: Retired teacher Pat Davidson supported by ORTA. Platform: Reducing years of service for retiring, COLA reinstated, Transparency of STRS.

Teacher Grant: An anonymous gift of \$2000 was given toward last year's grants. Year to date 89 grants total \$17,486.

News and Muse: Check SPAM folder in Email if you are not receiving.

Book Committee: David Reedy and Sue Cramer. Sue Cramer updated us on book sales.

Old Business: None

New Business: April Luncheon and Meeting scheduled for Thursday April 13th.

This will be our Memorial for both teachers and staff.

Call Rose or Cheryl to include those that have passed.

STRS online retirement asking personnel information - for individual tax filing is legal.

Raffle Winners: Angie Howell and Melinda King

Free Meal: Sylvia Clark

Adjourned: 1:40pm