

 **NEWS AND MUSE**

 **VOLUME 10 ISSUE 5 – AUG. – SEPT. 2019**

 **LUNCHEON AUGUST 1st**

 **WESTSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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 **RAFFEL FOR TEACHER GRANTS ---- 1 TICKET $2 OR 3 TICKETS $5**

 **$25 REGAL CINEAMA GIFT CARD**

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 **Luncheon**

 **Menu**

**Relish Tray**

**Regular meal - Baked Chicken          Vegetarian meal - Stuffed Pepper**

**Cheesy Potato Casserole**

**Green Beans**

**Dinner Roll**

**Cheesecake**

**Beverage**

RSVP by Monday July 29th to Norma Penn at

419-303-8431 or nleigh27catz@aol.com

Mailing address is 809 Brendenwood Drive Lima, Oh 45801

If you just want to join us and not eat you are welcome to come and have conversation with fellow educators at the table. We enjoy your company.

 **AUGUST GUEST SPEAKER**



Our guest speaker for August is Jill Ackerman, Superintendent of Lima City Schools.

 DO YOU VOLUNTEER

 IN OUR COMMUNITY?

As a retired teacher’s organization, we keep track of the hours that we give to our community. Please send us the number of hours that you volunteer so that we may add them to our count. It is amazing what we do and we would like to report these hours to ORTA and our membership in January. Send to bhochstetler001@woh.rr.com, 419-303-5667 or 3135 Tawa Drive, Lima, OH 45806. Thank you for all that you do.

 **Message from the President:**



In the last newsletter I had this for the closing, “Hoping for sunshine and a little warmer weather”. I think I had better be careful what I wish for in the future!

I would like to invite members to send me information that we might share in our newsletter about events that may be of interest to our members. Ideas include the AAUW book fair, learning opportunities, volunteer opportunities, etc. This is another way to keep our members informed of what is happening in our community and may wish to be involved in supporting.

I met with Amy Craft, Director of the Allen County Museum, and Sarah Rish, Curator of Education, on July 16 to talk about how our organization can help them. There will be opportunities to assist in preparing for the Annual Christmas Tree Festival. Help will be needed to prepare some of the crafts and to help in the Children’s Discovery Center. Please let me know if you are interested in giving a few hours to help this wonderful community tradition.

I also want to share the CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT INFORMATIONAL UPDATE posted on Ohio STRS Member Only Forum by Dean Dennis on July 9th: It is as follows:

“I want to share information about when you can expect to hear more information regarding the lawsuit.

At the point of filing, which was May 23, 2019, the Defendant (STRS) will have 60 days to respond to the charges or claims of violations. These are often called "counts." In all likelihood, STRS will use their 60 days to prepare an argument to have the claims dismissed. After STRS files this document with the court, the attorneys for the Plaintiff's (retirees) will have 21 days to respond to the Defendant's submissions for dismissing the claims or "counts." If you review the lawsuit, there are 9 "counts" filed against STRS.

After the Plaintiffs (retirees) file their response, STRS will then have 11 days to argue against what the Plaintiffs submitted to the court. So, as you can see, the beginning process will take up a minimum of a couple of months before the court (think Judge) has heard the final arguments from both sides. The reason I say a minimum of a couple of months is because either side can approach the court for an extension.

Finally, once the Defendant (STRS) and Plaintiff (retirees) have completed the above process, the court (Judge) will review and decided what counts the court is going to formally accept. Keep in mind that the court does not have a 60, or 21, or 11 days imposed upon the court to make a final decision so this can also take months.

During this process, Bob and I will keep you posted as to where we are. Again, we will not be able to discuss specifics of the case but we can keep you updated as to where we are in the process. We will also share that we are working very closely with our attorneys and will go into the lawsuit very prepared. Lastly, a big thank you to all the members of our Forum. We're over 7,000 members strong, over 20,000 people have signed our petition, and we are only going to get stronger.

Lastly, this posting is dedicated to Murray Grace and Ed Jaspers two good friends of mine and Bob Buerkle's. Bob and I would have lunch with them monthly. Both Murray and Ed were dedicated teachers and union members. Both Murray and Ed retired after the age of 65 with STRS. Both Murray and Ed died on the same day May 7, 2018 only 4 hours apart at the age of 69. Neither got to enjoy more than a couple years of retirement. Both were upset STRS reneged on their COLA promise. They are not alone.”

I hope to see many of you at the August 1st meeting where some of our teacher grant recipients will share their projects.

If you have questions, ideas or concerns, contact me at 419-303-5667 or bhochstetler001@woh.rr.com

Enjoy the summer - Barb

 **BIRTHDAYS FOR**

 **AUGUST & SEPTEMBER**



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Clover, Sue    | Aug. 02 |
| Hone, Miriam | Aug. 05 |
| Grear, Pam | Aug. 07 |
| Snook, Don R.   | Aug. 07 |
| Bowersock-Keating, Joyce | Aug. 12 |
| Brown, Myron | Aug. 13 |
| Pseekos, Kathleen  | Aug.13 |
| Sprague,Lvera   | Aug. 17 |
| Garling, Bill  | Aug. 19 |
| Hover, Sue   | Aug. 22                                                 |
| Hodges, Loretta | Aug. 26 |
| Diller, Alice    | Aug. 29 |
| Miller, E. Caroline                  | Aug. 30 |
| Kohlhorst, Jerri | Sept. 02 |
| Rockhold, Jon  | Sept . 03 |
| Hodges, Bruce    | Sept. 07 |
| Greenland, Donna | Sept. 08 |
| Groves, Sue | Sept. 08 |
| White, Janet   | Sept. 09 |
| Aller, Rod | Sept. 10 |
| Blass, Carol | Sept.14 |
| Urish, Jane | Sept. 14 |
| Baumgarte, Carol | Sept. 16 |
| Vaughn, Mark | Sept. 17 |
| Bassitt, Sam | Sept. 19 |
| LaGrande, Charles | Sept. 19 |
| Woodward, Cathy | Sept. 22 |
| King, Melinda | Sept. 24 |
| Ebbing, Elizabeth (Liz) | Sept. 26 |
| Schwabero, Mila   | Sept. 27 |
| Lewis, William | Sept. 28 |

 **ACRTA Legislative Chairperson, Bruce Hodges**

**By a 226-203 vote the Congressional House of Representatives have passed a FY2020 funding bill that includes several billion dollars in increases for early childhood, K-12, and higher education initiates. Both Title 1 and the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) get $1 billion more than they row receive. The bill increases Title ll funding by $500 million, which will help reduce class sizes and provide professional development for educators. Full-service community schools get $40 million-more than double the amount they now receive. Other provision help make higher education more affordable for students and families, including a $150 increase in the maximum Pell grant.**

**Now the Senate needs to act to support our students. CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND ASK THEM TO INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING!**

**Senator Shared Brown Senator Rob Portman**

**503 Hart Senate Office Bldg. 448 Russell Senate Office Bldg.**

**Washington D.C. 20510 Washington D.C. 20510**

**Ph: 202-224-2315**  **Ph: 202-224-3353**

**Our national future lies in the hands of our next generation of Americans. Education is the key to that future for the United States. The House has done their part. As professional educators, we need to do our part and encourage our two Ohio Senators to support this effort. Educating minds is the path to a fantastic future for the United States.**

**Bruce Hodges**

**1419 Wendell Ave.**

**Lima, Ohio 45805**