



ALLEN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

## NEWS AND MUSE

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 2

April - May 2022

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### APRIL MEETING

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Date: Thursday, April 7th at 11:30 AM

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Where: Immanuel United Methodist Church

699 Sunnysdale Street, Elida

Lunch: Appetizer, Pulled Pork Sandwich, MCL Potatoes, Green Beans, Oriental Salad, Deviled Egg, Hawaiian Bread, Trifle for dessert, and Beverage

Program: Memorial Service to remember those educators that passed in 2021.

Please contact Cheryl Quay 419-991-4886 or Rose Phillips 419-228-4328 if you know of someone that has passed and they were not in the Lima News.

Raffle Item: Proceeds go to the Dr. Jon Rockhold Teacher Grant Fund.

RSVP by Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to Norma Penn at 419-303-8431 or [nleigh27catz@aol.com](mailto:nleigh27catz@aol.com)

Cost for the lunch is \$15 to be paid to Norma at the meeting. Please DO NOT send your RSVP in the mail as it may not get to her in time.

*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.*

**\*\*The June meeting will have our Teacher Grant recipients presenting how they used the grant money in their classroom.**

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Opportunities for you.

Contact Barb Hochstetler if interested – 419-303-5667

1. The Allen County Museum needs people to help with a new exhibition on the 8 Ohio Presidents that is coming in late June through October. You would work a few hours to monitor the exhibit hall to ensure the exhibits are safe and help visitors as needed. They are also in need of docents. Some of our members serve in this capacity now and are a great help to the visitors at the museum.
2. Be on the nominating committee to bring names to the membership for the office of president and secretary. Both persons are term limited. Voting will be at the October meeting.

## (Ohio Retired Teachers Association)



ORTA's Endorsement Committee met in early March to interview candidates for STRS board seats ahead of next month's election. After spending time with each candidate via zoom or face to face interviews, the committee is proud to endorse the following people.

- Active seat - Julie Sellers
- Active seat – Steven Foreman
- Retiree seat – Elizabeth Jones

The decision to endorse these three challengers demonstrates ORTA's dissatisfaction with the current leadership in place at STRS. Key themes were increasing transparency and having the board lead the staff, not having the staff lead the board.

You should be receiving a ballot to vote for a representative for retired teachers on the STRS board in the next few weeks. We only get to for the retiree seat. Remember to send in your vote.

Remember to follow and join these sites on Facebook to learn more about what is happening at STRS.

[Ohio STRS Member Only Forum](#)

[STRS Ohio Watchdogs](#)



[From the STRS March Board News –](#)

Retirement Board Approves Benefit Plan Improvements that Benefit Both Active and Retired Teachers

At the March meeting of the State Teachers Retirement Board, the board approved a set of much anticipated benefit plan improvements that have been in the planning and review stages for the past several months. The changes benefit both active and retired members of the system. The board's actuarial consultant, Cheiron, is required by law to evaluate proposed benefit changes and they determined that the approved changes will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system.

Following the vote, Board Chair Robert A. McFee thanked his fellow board members for their thoughtful deliberation and noted that future benefit enhancements will be evaluated each year going forward. "This is just the first step in the right direction," said McFee. He indicated the board will continue to keep the long-term sustainability of the pension fund as its primary goal, but will also look for the opportunity to make future benefit enhancements for active and retired members as the financial condition of the fund allows.

The approved changes take effect on July 1, 2022, and include:

- A one-time 3% cost-of-living increase (COLA) will be paid to eligible benefit recipients. The COLA will be implemented as applied under current Ohio statute — that is:
  - An increase of 3% of base benefit will be added to the monthly payment in fiscal year 2023 for benefit recipients who began receiving benefits on June 1, 2018, or earlier, and will apply to future monthly payments.
  - The date of the increase is the anniversary date of retirement, which always falls on the first of the month. For example, any teacher who retired effective July 1 (2017 or earlier) will receive a COLA on July 1, 2022. A teacher who retired effective June 1 (2018 or earlier) will receive a COLA on June 1, 2023.
  - Members who retired July 1, 2018, or later are not eligible for a COLA at this time (must have received benefits for 60 months to be eligible for COLA).
- For active members, elimination of the age 60 requirement for retirement age and service eligibility that was set to take effect in 2026. Now, the final change to the phased-in age and service requirements will be made Aug. 1, 2023, when 35 years of service will be required for an unreduced retirement.

STRS Ohio will soon share with each individual retiree who is eligible to receive a COLA when they can expect their cost-of-living increase to be in their monthly benefit check (the anniversary month of retirement).

The motion passed by the board also signals the Retirement Board's intent to review benefits again, no later than spring 2023, to evaluate whether additional enhancements are possible in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

~Message from the President ~

The STRS Board voted to give retirees a one-time 3% COLA on the base salary of your retirement. Be aware that you will see this increase on the anniversary month of your retirement. This begins fiscal year July 1, 2022. Also if you retired after June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 you will have to wait the 60 months after retirement to receive your increase.

I feel this is better than nothing, but still has a long way to go to make this what many of us counted on for our retirement income. I trusted our retirement system to fulfill what I thought would be part of my retirement and it was tucked in the back of my head as part of the rewards for working long hours and not always the best pay that teachers/staff deserved. I had told future teachers that the Ohio STRS retirement was good and was worth what you may not see in your paycheck now. A 3% COLA each year would be helpful when you retire. But, what I thought to be true for those many years vanished. As we hear more of what has been happening with the investments and bonuses and perks that the management and investors seem to have, I should have gotten a job there! I feel they have let all of us down, actives and retired teachers.

My grandson is considering going into the field of education. A few years back I would have been excited and encouraged him to do so, but I don't know how secure a retirement might be for him if he chooses to teach in Ohio. This makes me sad as I enjoyed my many years in the Lima City Schools and all the people that I had the privilege to work with and the students to educate.

The STRS management and investors are not giving us all the information that we are entitled to know and the investors are reaping exorbitant bonus dollars for reaching benchmarks that they seem to be able to make for themselves. I wish we could have made our benchmarks for passing state tests, that would have been a lot easier on all of us.

I am deeply disappointed that more questions weren't asked by board members that represented us over the past 20 years when we see all that is happening today. I trusted that they would have had better insight, as I think many of us did.

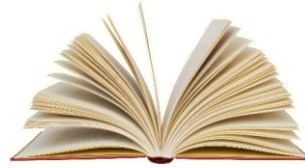
Social media certainly helps us to be able to find out more today and I am thankful for those that are asking questions and trying to find out more about the true story of what is and has happened at STRS.

Thank you to all that have joined our organization to keep it strong.

Barb

**ACRTA BOOK PROJECT: The project will be a book:**  
*Memories from the Schoolhouse!*

**Purpose:** *Allen County Retired Teachers Association Fund Raiser* for Dr. Jon Rockhold Teacher grants – The book will be available in both paperback and electronic through Amazon. Paperback may also be available through the ACRTA and local book sellers.



**Authors:** Any retired teacher from Allen County/Lima City/Delphos City schools. Teachers will provide brief bio: Include School building, district, years there, other info you would like to include up to 100 words total.

**Editor:** David Reedy, PhD (Assistant Editors, English/Writing Volunteer retirees).

**Specifics:**

Stories of 150 words or more, multiple submissions from authors will be considered.

Memories of classroom/building/district events, and specific students/parents.

Student/Parent names will require the use of pseudonyms.

*Pictures can be submitted with a minimum 50-word description.*

**Topics?** It's up to you. The stories can be touching, funny, serious, outlandish, simple, etc.

*Consider the following prompts:*

I remember the day when...

Years after completing my class, I was walking in the mall and Janice came running up and said...

An outbreak of chicken pox caused my class to...

You wouldn't believe the amount of snow we had to walk through to...

One crazy weather day, I helped Franklin to master his multiplication tables by ...

The funniest response I ever got from a student was when I asked them...

The class pet got loose and finally we found it... We had looked high and low...

We had a scare in the building when...

Our first-time principal released students by mistake when...

My first student teacher learned the hard way when she asked the students to...

The holiday pageant highlight was when...

*An example of a one liner:* When practicing for Quiz Team, the question was What was called the Black Death, it killed millions of Europeans during the Middle Ages? Rather than saying the *Bubonic Plague*, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade student innocently responded *The Pubic Plague*. The coaches had to majorly stifle their chuckles. (46 words...simple right?).

Please submit yours by May 15 or any questions to [davidreedy99@gmail.com](mailto:davidreedy99@gmail.com)

We hope to have this available by the beginning of next school year.



## April

Rita Dietrick - 2nd  
Linda Evans - 4th  
Mary Talley - 6th  
Julie Bauer - 9th  
Robert Bowerman - 11th  
Ed Hearne - 13th  
Miriam Warrington - 15th  
Herb Lauer - 20th  
Joyce Buetner - 21st  
Bob Loescher - 23rd  
Cheryl Lieurance - 30th

Jackson Burklo - 4th  
Sharon Rees - 5th  
Chuck Schierloh - 8th  
David Sandy - 10th  
Mary Wilkins - 12th  
Basilda Rockhold - 15th  
Darwin Boertje - 16th  
Linda Morrow - 20th  
Cheryl Craig - 21st  
Marcia Reeves - 26th

Commented [BH1]:

## May

Kim Pisel - 1st  
Dorothy Reynolds - 4th  
Linda Garling - 10th  
James Langhals - 11th  
Becky Foust - 20th  
Patricia Freeman - 26th  
Joanne Haidet - 28th

Mary Anne Spurr - 3rd  
Lori Rose - 9th  
Peggy Snider - 10th  
Carolyn Conner - 15th  
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.

~~~~~ Quote to ponder ~~~~~

“ It is the province of knowledge to speak, and it is the privilege of wisdom to listen.”

- *Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.*

**Legislative News :** You may be interested in following bills that are now in committee.

You can follow these at <https://legiscan.com/OH>

**Senate Bill 280** regards cost of living adjustments by State Teachers Retirement Board. At this time it has been referred to committee.

**House Bill 539** regards requirement of the state retirement systems to publicly broadcast board meetings. At this time it has been referred to committee.

**House Bill 540** regards requirement of the state retirement system boards to disclose certain financial information regarding alternative investments. At this time it has been referred to committee.

**House Bill 541** regards prohibition against the state retirement systems doing business with a former state retirement system employee, officer, or board member. At this time it has been referred to committee.

2022 ACRTA

**Meeting**

Dates

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

\*April 7<sup>th</sup> \*June 2<sup>nd</sup> \*August 4<sup>th</sup> \*October 6<sup>th</sup> \*December 1<sup>st</sup>

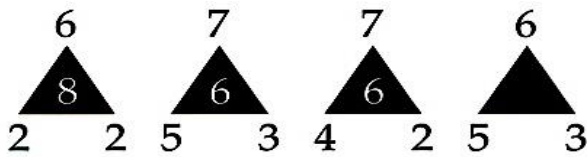
Board Meetings - 1:00 p.m.

\*May 5<sup>th</sup> \*July 7<sup>th</sup> \*September 1<sup>st</sup> \*November 3<sup>rd</sup>



## What is your answer?

1. What word begins and ends with an E but only has one letter?
2. I'm tall when I'm young and I'm short when I'm old. What am I?
3. Who is bigger: Mr. Bigger, Mrs. Bigger, or their baby?
4. Mike is a butcher. He is 5 foot 10 inches tall. What does he weigh?
5. What are the next three letters in the following sequence? J, F, M, A, M, J, J, A, \_\_, \_\_, \_\_
6. Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?
7. When you have me, you immediately feel like sharing me. But if you do share me, you do not have me.
8. What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands?
9. First, I threw away the outside and cooked the inside. Then I ate the outside and threw away the inside. What did I eat?
10. A man left home running. He ran away and then turned left, ran the same distance, and turned left again, ran the same distance, and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?



by Caroline Latham

### Question:

Which figure should be placed in the empty triangle?

\*\*\*\*\*Answers to both of these brain teasers are on the next page.



1. An envelope
2. A candle.
3. The baby because he is a little bigger.
4. Meat.
5. S, O, N. The sequence is the first letter of the months of the year. Sept., Oct., and Nov. are the next in the sequence.
6. Mt. Everest. It was still the highest in the world. It just had not been discovered yet!
7. A secret.
8. Your breath!
9. Corn on the cob
10. The catcher and the umpire.

**Answer to Empty Triangle**

3

**SOLUTION:**

The top number minus the bottom left-hand number is multiplied by the bottom right-hand number to give the number inside the triangle.