

- *“Many hands make light work.” – John Heywood*
- *“The nicest thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side.” – Margaret Carty*
- *“None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful.” – Mother Teresa*



Happy Easter! Hopefully Spring will soon stop playing hide-and-seek and settle in for a long comfortable visit with us. When it comes to anticipation, I think perhaps, Spring is like the adult version of Christmas. It is the one season most adults just can't wait to have arrive. I'm pretty sure those warm spring days are just around the corner.

I am guessing most of you are **also** anticipating the long over-due return of your COLA. Congratulations, as a result of your interest, action, and support, the STRS has made the decision to institute a one-time 3% COLA (calculated on your base) to all benefit recipients who are COLA eligible at this time. Furthermore, they promise to review possible added benefit enhancements within the next year. Granted, this is still not the COLA we were promised when we retired, but it is progress, and indicates those in power at the STRS are becoming more aware that their management is under the microscope and that they must be more responsive to their obligation to the state's retirees. I would encourage you to stay mindful, and to remind any former colleagues you encounter, of the fact that this change in the STRS is due in no small part to the advocacy of our state and local ORTA chapters. We must remain diligent in pursuit of this cause and to encourage others to join us, as we have shown that a united front will result in a stronger, better managed STRS Ohio system!

In that same vein, I would encourage you to study the candidates running for a position on the STRS Board. A team of individuals from ORTA has interviewed each of the candidates vying for the Retiree and Active Teacher Representative positions. You can review the Candidate Questionnaire Responses by visiting the ORTA web site (orta.org); scrolling down to the March newsletter link; next, scrolling down to the section that says "Newsletter Viewing"; and then clicking on the link to view the actual newsletter. About half-way through the newsletter, you should find buttons that will take you to each of the candidates' question responses. Having reviewed the responses, ORTA has made "...the decision to endorse three challengers [which] 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." The endorsed candidates are:

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

Check out the information, make your choice, and make your ballots. Remember, your very important votes need to be received not later than May 2nd.

One last note of thanks, before moving to new business. Thanks to those of you who found and forwarded historical information and documents to support my quest to chronicle HCRTA. I will have some of the semi-organized notebooks on display at the HCRTA May General Meeting.

Looking Forward: HCRTA in 2022

The Executive Committee met on April 5th at Frisch's in Hillsboro. After reviewing the meeting options for our May meeting, we decided to revive the plans for our cancelled February meeting. Therefore, we plan to meet on Monday, May 2nd at the Hillsboro Board of Education Conference Room located in the Fawley Building at 39

Willetttsville Pike in Hillsboro. Check-in and social time will begin at 11 AM. The meal, to be served at noon, will be a KFC Fill-up Meal for **\$6.00** (Those of you who paid the \$5 for a February meal DO NOT need to pay an additional dollar). On the form at the end of this newsletter, indicate your intention to attend or not, select your meal choice, and enclose your payment (unless you already paid for a February meal). As per our February plan, our program will be presented by home security experts Mike Secrest, from Blanchester, and Rick Riley, from Fairfield. They will speak on "Home Defense Training and Protecting your Home".

For our service project, we will also extend our monetary collection for the Highland County Society for Children and Adults. The society provides assistance to Highland County residents "...regardless of age or handicap ... when other assistance is unavailable." 100% of the society's funds remain in Highland County.

Be sure to send your meeting reservations to Doris Pulse, no later than Wednesday, April 27th.

Other News:

Three reminders for this month:

1. If you have not already done so, please remit your \$10.00 local HCRTA dues, and/or your \$30.00 ORTA Annual Dues.
2. As always, there is need for help with running our organization. We are still in need of a Legislative Committee Chairperson, and it would be nice to have a few people whose focus is helping generate program ideas.
3. Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 HCRTA and Spargur Scholarships. If you are aware of a Highland County resident attending college in the field of education, be sure to encourage them to apply.

I look forward to seeing each of you on May 2nd. Be sure to invite a former colleague or friend.

Highland County Retired Teachers Association Financial Report

April 4.2022

Balance January 3, 2022**\$4127.39****Receipts**

20 Lunch reservations @\$5.00 each	\$100.00
10 Local dues @\$10.00each	100.00
1 ORTA dues	30.00

Scholarship funds

General fund	300.00
Spargur fund	95.00
Project- Highland Co. Society for Children and Adults	250.00

Total receipts**\$875.00****Balance plus receipts****\$5002.39****Expenses**

2 ORTA dues	\$60.00
No other expenses - meeting canceled due to weather	

Total expenses \$**\$ 60.00****Balance minus expenses****\$4942.39****CD's**

NCB 12 month	\$1177.45
USB	689.83
Total	\$1867.28

Scholarship funds

General fund	\$2779.00
Spargur fund	633.00
Total set aside	\$3412.00

HCRTA Checking Account Balance	\$4942.39
(includes \$3412.00 set aside for scholarships)	

CD's	1867.28
------	---------

Total assets	\$6809.67
--------------	-----------

Respectfully submitted, Doris Pulse, Treasurer

February Meeting Was Cancelled

No Meeting Minutes

(Please Return This Portion BY April 27, 2022)

Doris Pulse, HCRTA Treasurer, 11740 State Route 753, Greenfield, OH 45123

Name:

___ I plan to attend the May 2, 2022 meeting.
• Number attending ___ X \$6.00 = \$ _____

Indicate meal choice(s):

- ___ Chicken breast, mashed potatoes, gravy, cookie, and drink
___ Chicken Pot Pie, cookie, and drink
___ Famous KFC Bowl, cookie, and drink

(Select your drink(s): Pepsi, Mt. Dew, Dr. Pepper, Sierra Mist, Sweet Tea, Lemonade, Water)

___ I do not plan to attend the May 2, 2022, meeting.

___ HCRTA 2022 Dues (\$10.00) \$ _____
ORTA 2022 Dues (\$30.00) \$ _____

___ Service Project (Highland County Society for Children and Adults) \$ _____

___ HCRTA Scholarship Fund \$ _____
• In memory of _____
• In honor of _____

Name & Address of family to be notified:

___ Spargur Scholarship Fund \$ _____
• In memory of _____
• In honor of _____

Name & Address of family to be notified:

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Additional comments:

*Place this portion and your check in an envelope & return to Doris Pulse, HCRTA Treasurer, 11740 State Route 753, Greenfield, OH 45123.