

- *“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others.” ~ Nelson Mandela*
- *“I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.” ~ Bob Dylan*
- *“All have their worth and each contributes to the worth of the others.” ~ J.R.R. Tolkien*
- *“The task that remains is to cope with our interdependence - to see ourselves reflected in every other human being and to respect and honor our differences.” ~ Melba Pattillo Beals*
- *“The deepest sense of life’s meaning and purpose arises from our interdependence and, in turn, our willingness to relate to others and respond to their needs.” ~ Hugh Mackay*



Happy Independence Day! In July we celebrate our independence as a nation. As a nation, we celebrate our freedom to be “independent” and “individual.” As a group of retirees, we cling to our ability to remain “independent” for as long as possible. However, ultimately, we all find that our independence is dependent on our dependence on one another. We need each other. We cannot do this life alone. Altogether, we are all better together! Our retirement organization is one way we become better together.

By now you most likely know that the ORTA efforts to encourage positive change in the leadership and operations at the Ohio State Teachers Retirement System have made an impact. First, following the ORTA sponsored forensic audit of STRS, the Ohio State Auditor indicated that “... the information supports ‘a reasonable basis’ for conducting a probe of the retirement system.” Second, the three ORTA endorsed candidates were elected to the board. Finally, many of you have now received your first Cost of Living Adjustment to your pension check in a very long time. However, this is still not the COLA we were promised when we signed our retirement papers. This adjustment is a one-time adjustment. The new amount will continue in effect, but you will, at this time, not receive additional annual adjustments. Nonetheless, these developments seem to be positive progress! If you did not receive your adjustment in July and have questions about your eligibility, the STRS web site states that further questions can be answered by calling 888-227-7877.

Upcoming HCRTA General Meetings:

The Executive Committee met on July 5th at Frisch’s in Hillsboro to plan the upcoming meeting. Our plans for the August 1st general meeting include gathering at the Hillsboro Church of Christ (155 W. Walnut St., Hillsboro, OH). Social time begins at 11:00 A.M. Lunch will be served at noon with the program to follow. The meal, prepared by members of the church, will include pork, cheesy potatoes, green beans, beverage, and dessert. Your cost is \$12.00, which will cover the cost of the meal plus a donation for use of the church facility.

The program will be presented by Tim Koehl, a former C.S. Bell employee, talking about the history of the company and sharing some of his experiences. He recently spoke at the American Bell Association International Annual Convention held in Charleston, West Virginia. As a consultant to the process, Mr. Koehl was instrumental to the completion of the recent murals painted in Hillsboro. We can all look forward to an informative and entertaining presentation.

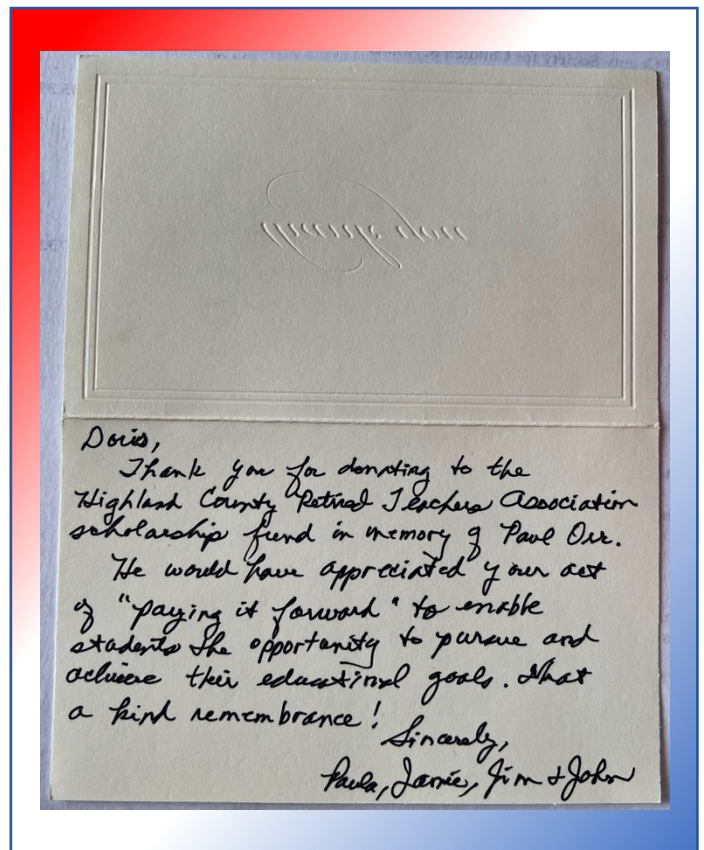
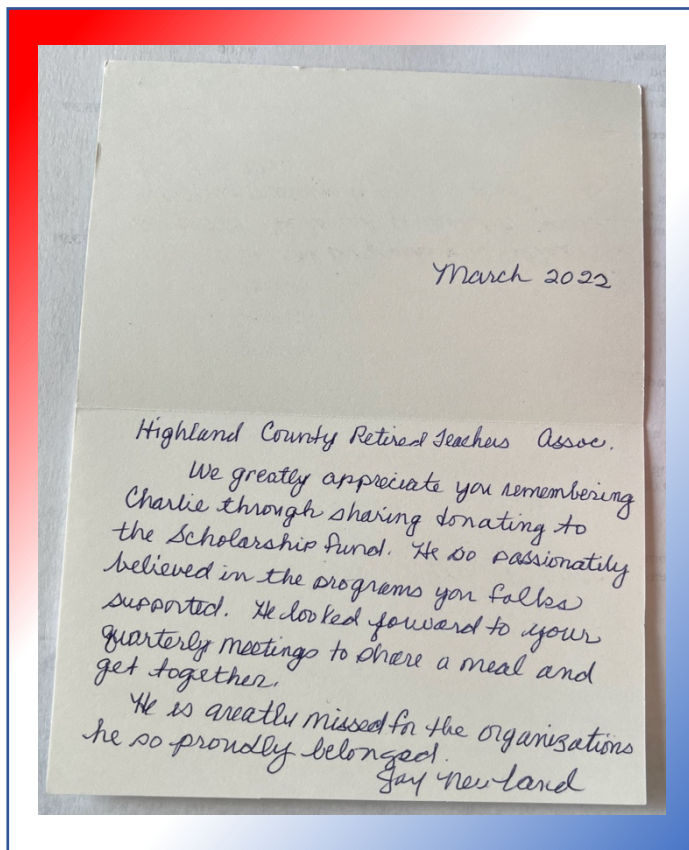
Our service project will be the collection of monetary donations for Redi-Fest and similar school supply efforts to benefit the five Highland County public school districts.

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

Other News:

At the Executive Meeting President Jim Faust, presented Treasurer Doris Pulse with \$307.00, donated to the HCRTA Scholarship Fund by H.O.P.E. (Hillsboro Organization of Professional Educators).

Treasurer Doris Pulse shared thank you notes from Jay Newland (Charlie Newland) and the family of Paul Orr for scholarship remembrances.



Retirement Planning Chairperson Pat Gall is in the process of scheduling preretirement meetings for active teachers anticipating retirement in the next few years. She will have the dates to share at the August meeting.

Scholarship Chairperson Mary Black reports she has high quality applicants for the scholarships. Recipients will be announced at the August meeting.

I look forward to seeing each of you on August 1st. Be sure to bring along a former colleague or friend!

Highland County Retired Teachers Association Financial Report

Balance April 4, 2022 **\$4942.39**

Receipts

9 dinners @ \$6.00 each	\$ 54.00
6 Local dues @\$10.00each	60.00
3 ORTA dues @ \$30.00 each	90.00
Scholarship funds	
General fund	98.00
Project- Highland Co. Society for Children and Adults	167.00
Extra meals donations	24.00
Total receipts	\$493.00

Balance plus receipts **\$5435.39**

Expenses

3 ORTA dues	\$ 90.00
28 KFC Meals	180.48
Kevin Black – Stamps	174.00
Highland County Society for Children and Adults (\$250 - \$167)	417.00
Total expenses	\$ 861.48

Balance minus expenses **\$4573.91**

CD's

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

Scholarship funds

General fund	\$2877.00
Spargur fund	633.00
Total set aside	\$3510.00

HCRTA Checking Account Balance \$4573.91

(includes \$3510.00 set aside for scholarships)

CD's 1867.28

Total assets \$6441.19

Respectfully submitted, Doris Pulse, Treasurer

Meeting Minutes:
Highland County Retired Teachers Association
05-02-22

Opening:

The May 2, 2022 General Meeting of the HCRTA, was held at the Hillsboro City Schools Administrative Offices. The meeting was attended by 21 members and 2 guests. President Faust called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and opened with welcoming remarks, recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance,” the singing of “God Bless America”, introduction of guests, and an acknowledgement of Hillsboro City Schools and Superintendent Tim Davis, thanking him for the use of the facility. Following an invocation, attendees enjoyed a satisfying self-served KFC Fill-up Meal, completed with cookies provided by Mr. Faust.

Program:

Following the meal, President Faust introduced guest speakers Mike Secrest of Blanchester and Rick Riley from Fairfield, Ohio. Their topic was Home Defense Training and Protecting Your Family. Mr. Secrest and Mr. Riley pointed out that, given the time that it takes for law-enforcement to respond to a call, you and the security measures you have in place are your family’s first line of defense. The presenters discussed constructing your home security in layers, each layer making it more difficult and more inconvenient for intruders. Layer one includes security precautions such as making home entry more difficult (locking mechanisms on main and secondary doors, gates, garage doors, and windows), wise landscaping, and precautionary lighting. Another layer would encompass video surveillance, security monitoring, and guard animals, plus signage that advertises the presence of such (whether they exist or not). The final layer includes strategies for fending-off an invasion once entry is gained (including strategies for standing your ground and using the term “Home Invasion” when calling for police).

Business Meeting:

The business meeting included reports from Treasurer Doris Pulse and Secretary Kevin Black. Among other items, Mrs. Pulse reported collection of \$390 for the service Project and \$410 for the scholarship funds. Mr. Black drew attention to the new notebooks organizing some of HCRTA’s archival documents. Kathy Levo moved that the reports be approved and Joyce Baker seconded the motion. Approved by unanimous vote.

President Faust reported on a donation of 60 “Sweats for Vets” by Bulls-Eye Screen Printing delivered to the Georgetown Veterans Home by Mr. Faust. President Faust also stated that he had completed the annual ORTA Report which recorded our local membership at 61, including 20 ORTA lifetime members. During the report there was mention of the terms of the COLA that STRS would be implementing for qualified members beginning with the July 1, 2022 check. This is a one-time 3% COLA, implemented on the anniversary of an eligible individual’s retirement. It is not an additional 3% each year, but the new amount will remain in place each year, with STRS to review the possibility of additional COLAs for future years. Finally, Mr. Faust reminded members that the STRS Board Elections end today and encouraged members to submit their votes by the end of the day if they had not already done so.

Leone Bihl reported the following deaths in the Necrology Report: Earl Burnett, former Hillsboro City Schools teacher and counselor, Jim VanDerVort, former Great Oaks instructor, Marylin Tracey, former elementary teacher at Fayetteville-Perry Local Schools, and Verla Hodson, former Hillsboro City Schools employee.

Scholarship Chairperson Mary Black reported that she has one scholarship applicant to date.

New Business:

The next General Meeting will be held August 1st at the Hillsboro Church of Christ. The next Executive Committee Meeting will be at the Frisch’s Restaurant in Hillsboro at 9:30 on July 5th.

Following discussion of potential future meeting program topics and service projects, the meeting was adjourned.

(Please Return This Portion BY July 27, 2022)

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

Name:

___ I plan to attend the August 1, 2022 meeting.
• Number attending ___ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

___ I do not plan to attend the August 1, 2022, meeting.

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

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

___ Service Project (Redi-Fest/School Supplies) \$ _____

___ 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.

