



- “Listen! The wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves, We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves!” — Humbert Wolfe
- “No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face.” — John Donne
- “Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons.” — Jim Bishop
- “Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.” — Samuel Butler
- “The leaves fall, the wind blows, and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.” — Henry Beston

Last year at this time we were planning what turned out to be our most highly attended Highland County Retired Teachers Association Meeting ever, with STRS executives slated as our featured speakers. It turned out to be quite a meeting. Only one executive ended up coming, but he seemed to have his hands full with tough questions about the management of our pension fund. I believe he left knowing that we were not happy with the state of our pension fund. Now, one year later, some changes have been made at STRS, but many concerns remain unaddressed. For example, several new members were elected to the STRS Board thanks to a groundswell effort of the retirees. These new members have now been empaneled, and it remains to be seen what impact they will be able to have. Another positive change is that many of us have now received our first COLA in many years. However, on the negative side, financial mismanagement seems to continue to be a concern. The Ohio State Auditor has been conducting a special audit of STRS, and, according to a September NPR report, the Auditor was quoted as saying that “We’ve got some concerns....” (*Kasler, Karen. “Auditor Forecasts ‘Concerns’ about Findings in Special Audit of Ohio Teachers’ Pension Fund.” WKSU, WKSU, 17 Sept. 2022, <https://www.wksu.org/education/2022-09-17/auditor-forecasts-concerns-about-findings-in-special-audit-of-ohio-teachers-pension-fund>.)* This same article also referred to the recent controversial award of \$10 million in bonuses to investment managers. Stay tuned and stay vigilant.

### **November Meeting Plans:**

The Executive Committee met on October 3rd at Frisch’s in Hillsboro to plan the upcoming meeting. Our plans for the November 7<sup>th</sup> general meeting include again gathering at the Hillsboro Church of Christ (155 W. Walnut St., Hillsboro, OH). Social time will begin at 11:00 A.M. Lunch will be served at noon and the program will follow. The meal, prepared by members of the church, will include chicken parmesan, glazed carrots, green beans, rolls, beverages, and desserts. Your cost is \$12.00, which will cover the cost of the meal plus a donation to the church.

Presenter Tamla Cole, of STRS, will provide our annual member benefits update. Our service project will be the collection of monetary donations for the Highland County Animal Shelter. Be sure to send your meeting reservations to Doris Pulse no later than Friday, October 28th.

In November, we ask that members remit their dues for the coming year. Local dues are \$10 and ORTA dues are \$30. We also elect officers in the November Business Meeting. Nominations for all positions will be taken from the floor. Be thinking about how you might best serve.

**Other News:**

Speaking of officers, by the time you read this, several members of the Executive Committee will have made a trip to Worthington, Ohio to participate in the ORTA 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Also, several of our officers will attend the SW Region meeting for ORTA on October 17 in Dayton.

We received a card from Fairfield Local Schools in appreciation of the recent Redi-fest Donation. The card is pictured below.



Retirement Planning Chairperson Pat Gall has announced that the Highland County Retired Teachers Association will sponsor a pre-retirement informational workshop for all active teachers and administrators planning to retire within the next five years. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, October 26, from 4:30 until 6:00, in the Library of Hillsboro Elementary School, located at 500 US 62 S. A presenter from the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) will cover general retirement topics and then those relative to individual choices that will need to be made in a timely manner.

I look forward to seeing each of you on November 7th. Be sure to bring along a former colleague or friend!



**Highland County Retired Teachers Association Financial Report**

October 3, 2022

**Balance July 3, 2022****\$4573.91****Receipts**

Donations from HOPE for scholarship fund	\$ 307.00
24 lunch reservations at \$12.00 each	288.00
10 Local dues @\$10.00each	100.00
1 ORTA dues @ \$30.00 each	30.00
Scholarship funds	
General fund	189.00
Spargur fund	10.00
Project- school supplies	281.00
Late check – local dues	10.00
Scholarship fund	50.00
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$1265.00</b>

**Balance plus receipts****\$5838.91****Expenses**

Scholarships	
Ohio University	\$ 500.00
Liberty University	500.00
Shawnee State University	500.00
Project – School supplies	
Greenfield Elementary School	56.20
Hillsboro Elementary School	56.20
Lynchburg-Clay Elementary School	56.20
Fairfield Local Elementary School	56.20
Bright Elementary School	56.20
Hillsboro Church of Christ – catered meal	250.00
Hillsboro Church of Christ – host donation	50.00
1 ORTA dues	30.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2111.00</b>

**Balance minus expenses****\$3727.91****CD's**

NCB (matures 1/14/23)	\$1179.71
USB	689.83
Total	\$1869.54

**Scholarship funds**

General fund	\$2066.00
Spargur fund	143.00
Total set aside	\$2209.00

HCRTA Checking Account Balance	\$3727.91
(includes \$2209.00 set aside for scholarships)	
CD's	1869.54
Total assets	\$5597.45

Respectfully submitted, Doris Pulse, Treasurer

**Meeting Minutes:**  
Highland County Retired Teachers Association  
08-01-22

**Opening:**

The August 1, 2022, General Meeting of the HCRTA, was held at the Hillsboro Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. The meeting was attended by 20 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” and the singing of “God Bless America” and an invocation. The meal consisted of home cooked Pork Loin, Green Beans, Cheesy Potatoes, Corn Souffle, drinks, salad, rolls, and dessert prepared by church members Donita Everetts, Janet Epley and Darlene Mihalik. The meal was delicious, satisfying and greatly appreciated by the HCRTA members.

**Program:**

Following the meal, President Faust introduced guest speaker Tim Koehl, a former C.S. Bell Foundry employee, who talked about the history and legacy of the C. S. Bell Company. Mr. Koehl stated that the C.S. Bell Company existed in Hillsboro, Ohio from about the mid 1850’s, was sold out of the Bell Family in the late 1960’s, and was eventually closed in Hillsboro in the 1990’s. Charles Singleton Bell, the company’s founder was a skilled metallurgist. He began his foundry business in the “Speedwell” factory on West Beech Street. During the company’s history it occupied three other locations: the corner of West Main and South West Streets (in the building that is now home to one of the C.S. Bell Murals); behind what is now the Porch Restaurant, in what was at one time the Hillsboro City Schools Bus Garage; and finally behind The Producers Livestock Auction facility. During its history, in addition to cast iron bells, for which the company is best known, the company produced numerous cast iron products including stoves, plows, and sugar cane and sorghum presses. The company was known for its superior iron formula and was the largest manufacturer of cast iron bells in the world. One little known fact is that most of the bells manufactured by the C. S. Bell Company were not labelled as C.S. Bell products, allowing Bell to produce bells for many competitors.

One of the company’s highlights was the production of over 14,000 communication bells for the US Naval fleet and its Allies during WWII. The naval contract was engineered and brokered by Virginia Bell, a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation descendent of Charles, and former New York actress. These bells outfitted the Allied naval fleet, including the 4112 landing craft involved in the D-Day operation. The quality of the bells and the efficiency of the workers in the manufacturing process garnered accolades from the US Navy Rear Admiral E. L. Cochran.

Mr. Koehl stated that the original C. S. Bell Company continues production of milling and grinding equipment in Tiffin, Ohio, and that “C S Bell” bells continue to be made today at a foundry in Washington State and sold by Prindle Station Bells.

**Business Meeting:**

During the business meeting Treasurer Doris Pulse circulated the scholarship and service project donation boxes and clarified the \$471 donation to The Highland County Society for Children and Adults (from proceeds collect in February and May). She also stated that one of the CD’s was renewed for an 18 month period at .85% interest. President Faust and Vice-President Bihl reported on a donation to the scholarship fund from the Hillsboro Organization of Professional Educators (HOPE). Secretary Kevin Black reported no changes or additions to the May meeting minutes. Lawrence Dukes moved that the meeting minutes and the Treasurer’s reports be approved. Susan Parker seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

Leone Bihl reported on the passing of the following Highland County educators: Roberta Gene “Bert” Meredith, GEVS; Judith “Judy” Kay Johnson, HCS; Betty English Claibourne Fenner, Webster Elementary; Lisa Christy Stewart, McClain HS and East Clinton HS; Richard D. Achor, Wilmington HS and SSCC; Herbert J. “Herb” Mihalik, HCS, Bright Local, East Clinton, WCH, Blanchester, Williamsburg, and Batavia schools; Diana Lynn Stevens, Lynchburg-Clay; Beverly A. Carroll, Jefferson, Sinking Spring, Peebles, Blanchester and Western Brown; Janet Hussey Bowman, HHS as well as South Carolina and Florida; Phyllis Ann Jury, Head Start; Joan Louise Acton Anderson, teachers aide; Naomi Bausman, Sycamore HS and Blue Ash; Karen McBee, retired bus driver; Jonathan Milburn, janitor at HHS; Francis “Frank” Brown, retired bus driver at GEVS; Ruth Tucker Baker Lawson, granddaughter of Ruth Tucker, art teacher at Hillsboro Christian Academy; Jo Ann Hale, Blanchester; and Richard Williams, Maintenance HCS.

Other reports included the announcement by Chairperson Mary Black of the 2022 HCRTA and Harold W. Sparger Scholarship recipients Samantha Jones, Zoe Crabtree, Ciara Colwell. Pre-retirement Chairperson Pat Gall announced plans for a pre-retirement meeting for educators anticipating retirement in the next 3-5 years, to be held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at a location to be announced.

In other business, President Faust commended the efforts of our local HCRTA as well as other local ORTA chapters for the impact they have made on the positive changes happening at STRS- Ohio. Mr. Faust also advised membership of the upcoming ORTA 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to be held the Double Tree Inn in Worthington, Ohio on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-7 PM. Members were encouraged to attend.

Members were also advised of a fire that destroyed the home of our recently passed member, Charlie Newland, and asked that we keep his widow Jay in our thoughts and prayers.

The final business was the discussion of future HCTRA meetings. Members were invited to attend the Executive Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Hillsboro Frisch’s beginning at 9:30 AM. The November General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Hillsboro Church of Christ. Our speaker will be Tamla Cole, with the annual STRS benefits update. It was suggested that the service project be donations to benefit the Highland County Humane Society. President Faust reminded members that officer election would be held at the November meeting and that all members were encouraged to stand for office. We are especially in need of a Treasurer, as Mrs. Pulse will be resigning her position at the end of the year. Ruth Ann Duff suggested that we should invite members from other counties to attend our November meeting. Mr. Faust mentioned that we may need a portable PA system for future meetings. Long term planning included the discussion of possible future program topics including the return of Mr. Koehl to talk about the local ancient Native American World Heritage sites or inviting mural artist Pamela Kellough to speak on the murals she has painted in the area.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.

**(Please Return This Portion BY October 28, 2022)**

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

Name:

\_\_\_ I plan to attend the November 7, 2022 meeting.

• Number attending \_\_\_ X \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I do not plan to attend the November 7, 2022, meeting.

\_\_\_ HCRTA 2022 Dues (\$10.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ ORTA 2022 Dues (\$30.00) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Service Project (Highland County Animal Shelter) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ 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.

