



- “Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.” – **Paul Theroux**
 - “I pray this winter be gentle and kind –a season of rest from the wheel of the mind.” – **John Geddes**
 - “In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.” – **Albert Camus**
 - “Thank goodness for the first snow, it was a reminder –no matter how old you became and how much you’d seen, things could still be new if you were willing to believe they still mattered.” – **Candace Bushnell**
 - “Welcome, winter. Your late dawns and chilled breath make me lazy, but I love you nonetheless.” – **Terri Guillemets**
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Welcome to 2023! In January, it is always so hard to get used to correctly dating documents. It took me a whole year to train my brain to write 2022 and now I must retrain it to write 2023. It makes my poor brain spin! How about you, how many times have you written or said the wrong year this month?

The transition from one year to the next is a time of “double vision”: a time of looking back at the past year while simultaneously looking forward to the coming year. Each Christmas I make my wife a photo wall calendar (yes, she still loves a PHYSICAL wall calendar, even though we keep most of our schedule information electronically.) Making that photo calendar provides hours of entertainment as I end the year with a sentimental journey down memory lane. It is so fun looking back through all the pictures from the past year and picking the best photos of our loved ones. And in January it is always fun thinking about how entertaining it will be next December to look back on the new pictures to again make a calendar for the following year.

February Meeting Plans:

Thank you for a great HCRTA 2022, but we now look forward to 2023. The Executive Committee met on January 4th at the Lions Candy Store (AKA the Republican Party Headquarters) in Hillsboro and developed plans for the upcoming meeting. Our agenda for the February 6th general meeting includes 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 will include chicken tortilla soup, ham sliders, pinwheels, beverages, and desserts. Your cost is \$12.00, which will cover the cost of the meal plus a donation to the church.

The program for February will be "Pathways to Wellness", a mental health program presented by Patsi Dick and Darlene Teague of the Highland District Hospital. They will discuss how to deal with depression, loss of loved ones, grief, discouragement, and other mental health issues. The community service project for this meeting is the Highland County Victim/Witness Program. Given that our new Treasurer, Leone Bihl, is currently in Florida, Doris Pulse will collect reservations and donations for this meeting. Be sure to send your meeting reservations to Doris no later than Friday, February 27th.

Other News:

This message is in almost every newsletter, with very little response from the membership. Despite the lack of response, the need is not going away. We have talked in the Executive Committee numerous times, and all agree that two things needed to keep this organization alive and well are 1) a membership committee to do the job of inviting potential members to join us, and 2) a calling chain committee to contact members right before general meetings to personally invite them to attend. Reach out to friends and come prepared to volunteer for one of these committees!

In other news, we received a card of thanks from the Highland County Humane Society in appreciation of our recent donation.

The last new business that the Executive Committee would like to communicate is the status of the Spargur Scholarship fund. The Spargur Scholarship fund was originally established by the family of Harold W. Spargur to honor and memorialize Mr. Spargur's years as a respected educator in the Hillsboro City School system. In 2002 the Spargur family handed over trusteeship of the scholarship to the Highland County Retired Teacher's Association. Since that time, we have been diligent in awarding hundreds of dollars in scholarships to at least 22 worthy education-major college students from the Highland County area. However, donations and financial support for this scholarship have fallen below a sustainable level. Last fall we supplemented the Spargur Scholarship with a little money from the general scholarship fund to enable us to award the 2022 scholarship. The Spargur Scholarship fund is now completely depleted. All donated funds have been allocated to the purpose that they were intended, and given lack of financial support, the Executive Committee has voted to dissolve the Spargur Scholarship. Scholarship awards going forward will be from the HCRTA General Scholarship Fund. Henceforth, the number and dollar amount of HCRTA Scholarships will be determined on an annual basis, based on available funds.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the February 6th meeting! Until then, be well. Remember, in the event of inclement weather on the 6th, we will also cancel if Hillsboro City Schools cancels. Otherwise, see you on the 6th.

Highland County Retired Teachers Association - Financial Report -**January 3, 2023****Balance November 7, 2022****\$3727.91****Receipts**

Lunch Reservations	\$ 408.00
40 local dues @\$10.00 each	400.00
15 ORTA dues @ \$30.00 each	450.00
Scholarship donations	235.00
Animal Shelter – service project	292.00
Total receipts	\$1785.00

Balance plus receipts**\$5512.91****Expenses**

Hillsboro Church of Christ – catered meal	290.00
Hillsboro Church of Christ – host donation	50.00
Highland County Animal Shelter – service project	292.00
15 ORTA dues @ \$30.00 each	450.00
Total expenses	\$ 1082.00

Balance minus expenses**\$4430.91****CD's**

NCB (matures 1/14/24)	\$1181.94
USB	689.83

Total**\$1871.77****HCRTA Checking Account Balance****\$4430.91**

HCRTA General Scholarship funds	1493.59
HCRTA liquid operating funds	2937.32

Total assets**\$6302.68**

Respectfully submitted, Doris Pulse, Treasurer

HCRTA General Meeting, Nov. 7, 2022

At noon Jim Faust, HCRTA president, called the meeting to order. The group then recited the pledge, led by Vice President JC Bihl. Afterwards the group sang “God Bless America,” followed by prayer, announcements, and an excellent meal prepared by the ladies of the Hillsboro Church of Christ, two of whom are former teachers and members of the group.

Jim Faust explained HCRTA gives a \$50 donation for church usage and asked Donita Everetts, one of the cooks, to explain how the meal expenses and excess money are used. Everetts said once the meal supplies are satisfied, the additional monies are spent on church youth activities including the “Backpack Club”, an after-school program for first to fifth grade youth. Everetts also shared the baked chicken recipe, a popular lunch entrée, with the group.

Tamla Cole from STRS, main speaker, informed the group about health care and any changes for the upcoming year and answered questions following her presentation.

In the business meeting the August minutes were approved. The special project is the Animal Shelter.

In her financial report Doris Pulse, treasurer, reported \$159 was to be added to the scholarship fund and \$292 was to go to the Highland County Animal Shelter.

President Faust gave a brief report on the three recent meetings: First, on October 12, President Jim Faust, Vice President JC Bihl, and Leone Bihl attended the ORTA 75th anniversary celebration in Worthington. They were entertained by musical selections from outgoing ORTA President and his wife and heard messages from the current ORTA President, a new STRS board member, and a retired teacher, Secondly, on October 26, Jim Faust and Pat Gall assisted at the preretirement informational meeting at Hillsboro Elementary Library. Bonnie Wild from STRS made an excellent presentation. All were pleased with the facilities and how well the meeting went. Pat reported there were 21 participants and one after-meeting contact. Pat received many complimentary remarks from attendees about being pleased with the meeting. Thirdly, on Oct. 17, Doris Pulse and Jim Faust attended the regional ORTA conference in Dayton.

Re: committee reports

In a membership update Pulse reported most HCRTA attendees have rejoined and will get a number later. Faust said he had spoken with 6 prospective members and given them information; he is hopeful they will follow up with the group.

The Necrology report by Leone Bihl follows:

- **Robert G. Gardner** – He was a teacher, athletic director, and coach, working 40 years in the Indian Hill, Norwood, Madiera City Schools, and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy.
- **June Day Roush** – was an educator serving the Lynchburg Clay School District.
- **Josephine R. Harner/ Josephine Roseann Karnes** (yes, of Karnes Orchard) Hadley Harner – mother-in-law to our Jennie Harner, lived to be 100 years young, and for 19 years she taught first grade at Webster Elementary in the Hillsboro City School District.
- **Kathleen Johnson Werner** – retired from Clinton Massie Schools.
- **Ruthanne Trutner** – (wife of William “Bill,” my favorite high school teacher), taught government, speech, and debate classes and directed plays at Edward Lee McClain High School. She achieved county acclaim when she was inducted into the Highland County Women’s Hall of Fame.

- **Larry Chapman** – taught special education at Buckskin and social studies at Edward Lee McClain High School, his alma mater.
- Not a teacher, but a person of note in the community and a mother with whom I had a memorable positive parent teacher conference – **Deborah Kellis Harsha**, wife of former Hillsboro mayor Sandy Harsha, mother of current Hillsboro mayor Justin Harsha, owner/manager of Hillsboro business Harsha Monuments, and an active participant in numerous community activities.

Joyce Baker reported on the decorated Christmas trees at the Highland House, home to Highland County Historical Society. The theme is “one room schoolhouses in the community” and many can be seen on the Historical Society’s website. Kathy Levo added there is a quiz for visitors to add to their viewing experience. Prizes for winners include a \$10 credit for the HCHS gift shop and a free society membership. HCRTA was invited and encouraged to visit Highland House to view the decorated trees.

In additional information in sharing time Faust encouraged the retirees to visit the Lynchburg Lions Club candy store at the bank building in Lynchburg and the Republican Building in Hillsboro beginning Thanksgiving week.

Many county athletes played excellently this season: HHS was commended for its football season; Lynchburg-Clay marching band received a Superior award at the State level and the girls’ soccer team went to the state final four; Whiteoak’s cross country team did well, and Eyre was 5th in the state; Fairfield teams did well in volleyball, cross country, and soccer. HCRTA is proud of the athletes’ accomplishments. All the schools excelled in FFA and other activities.

The group needs to decide on a community service project for the February meeting. The group discussed possible future presentations. When Jim Faust mentioned a contact he had made at an ORTA meeting, Kathy Levo because of weather concerns suggested May rather than February when an STRS board member can address the group. Joan Winner would like for Tim Koehl to return to speak about ancient Indian influence in the area. Also suggested was Pam Kellough, the muralist. Leone Bihl suggested a speaker about teen and adult mental health. Several would like to hear about the constitutional convention of states.

Officer Election:

Acting officers: Jim Faust, President; JC Bihl, Vice President; Kevin Black, Secretary; Doris Pulse, Treasurer.

Jim asked for volunteers from the floor and said the officers had served a long period of time and would be happy for others to serve. Doris Pulse asked to retire. Jim Faust asked Leone Bihl to serve as Treasurer. She agreed. There were no further nominations. Donna Armstrong moved to keep the present slate of officers with Leone Bihl replacing Pulse as Treasurer. Sharon Parker seconded the motion. After an oral unanimous vote, the motion was approved. Joan Winner volunteered to serve as Necrology Reporter in Bihl’s stead.

The next meeting will be February 6, 2023, at the Hillsboro Church of Christ with all 2023 future meetings at the same site the first Monday in February, May, August, and November. Cost is the meal plus church donation.

The next executive meeting is scheduled for January 2, 2023, at Frisch’s in Hillsboro at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to help the officers plan future events.

Jim Faust adjourned the HCRTA meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leone Bihl for Kevin Black

(Please Return This Portion BY January 27, 2023)

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

Name:

____ I plan to attend the February 6, 2023 meeting.

• Number attending ____ X \$12.00 = \$ _____

____ I do not plan to attend the February 6, 2023 meeting.

____ HCRTA 2023 Dues (\$10.00) \$ _____

____ ORTA 2023 Dues (\$30.00) \$ _____

____ Service Project (Highland County Victim/Witness Program) \$ _____

____ HCRTA 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.

