

HIGHLAND COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

1-12-2021



- “As wave is driven by wave and each, pursued, pursues the wave ahead, so time flies on and follows, flies, and follows, always, for ever and new. What was before is left behind; what never was is now; and every passing moment is renewed.” - **Ovid, Metamorphoses**
- “A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.” - **Brad Henry**
- “You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” - **C. S. Lewis**
- “Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.” – **Robert H. Schuller**

From the Editor:

Here we are in 2021. I cannot say I really know anyone who is sad to see 2020 left behind. However, as 2021 moves in more adventure and turmoil seems to be on the way. Our task is to be forward thinking, with as much positivity as we can muster and take charge of what is within our realm of control, while accepting, without worry, matters in which we have no say! In 2021, choose a peace-filled mind!

While most of you likely already know this, it with sadness that I have to report the passing of our recently re-elected Chapter President, Robert Hottle. His obituary stated that, “Robert D. “Bob” Hottle, 72 of Hillsboro, went home to be with the Lord Friday evening November 6, 2020 surrounded by his loving family on his beloved farm.” Bob’s steady leadership, welcoming smile, and loving demeanor will be greatly missed at our HCRTA meetings. HCRTA Scholarship donations would be a great way to honor Bob’s memory!

HCRTA NEWS:

On November 2, 2020, HRCTA held its first ever VIRTUAL MEETING! The attendance was under-whelming at best, however, there were a few brave and young-minded individuals who stepped up, learned a new skill, and attended the meeting with a Zoom connection. The full meeting viewed on our website at <https://hcrta.weebly.com/news-blog>.

Now in January, even though the vaccine roll-out has begun, we are still a long way from being able to meet in person and so, once again, your executive committee has chosen to meet through Zoom. The February General HCRTA Meeting will begin on Zoom at 11:00 AM on February 1st. The meeting ID, Password, and link, will be the same as last month (SEE BELOW).

I am hopeful that we can have a much better attendance this time. Zoom really is quite easy to use and I am willing to do whatever it takes to get each of you connected, with practice ahead of time, phone calls, remote connections, or a personal visit to your home. Let me know how I can help!

To connect to the Zoom meeting you only need a computer, tablet, or smart phone. If you only have a phone, you may listen to the audio-only with a cell phone or land line.

Meeting details are as follows:

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 3059 0344

Meeting Password: **051844**

- ⇒ If you just want to listen on your phone, with no video, you can call in by dialing 1-646-558-8656, then when prompted, keying in the meeting ID, and passcode.
- ⇒ If you have a digital copy of this newsletter, you can click this link to automatically connect to the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86430590344?pwd=U1p1UmNmbFdDNW5zdldSMHhPYjVlQT09>
- ⇒ If you have a smart phone with texting, data and an internet connection, text me at 937-402-7642 and I will send you the link.
- ⇒ The meeting room will open up at 10:15 AM to allow individuals extra time to get logged in and trouble shoot!
- ⇒ If you are not sure how to join a zoom meeting, see the final page of this newsletter for a guided tutorial.
- ⇒ If you would like to practice connecting to zoom ahead of February 1st, call or text me and we can do an individual trial run (937-402-7642)

Our guest speakers for the February meeting will be Rich Crabtree, representing the Lynchburg “Because He Lives Food Pantry”, and LuAnn Roe for the “Food Pantry at Greenfield Area Christian Center”. Our guests will provide us with an understanding of the need and vision that inspired their organization into being, the services they provide, opportunities for volunteerism, and data as well as inspiring anecdotal stories of the lives their services have impacted. Our service project for February will be to support these two organizations by way of monetary donations, proceeds to be divided between the two.

According to Treasurer, Doris Pulse, as of January 4th, there were several members who paid their 2021 dues (Local HCRTA \$5.00 and State ORTA \$30). The executive committee is encouraging any who have not yet paid to use the form near the end of this newsletter to submit your local and state dues. With the convenient form and one check you can cover your dues, make contributions to the scholarship funds, and contribute to what I am sure you will agree is worthy service project. It is certainly a way to make a positive difference in these trying times! In November, we raised \$175.00 for Monkey Beans Giving Closet, which provided Christmas gifts for area foster children.

As noted in previous newsletters, this summer we have awarded two HCRTA scholarships and one Harold W. Spargur Scholarship to three outstanding future educators. Remember, we now have the opportunity to honor the memory of colleagues, friends, and relatives who have passed in 2020 with scholarship donation.

As mentioned earlier, in November, we elected our local officers. Elected were:

Bob Hottle	–	President
Paul “Jim” Faust	–	Vice-President
Doris Pulse	–	Treasurer
Kevin Black	–	Secretary

However, with the death of Bob Hottle, Jim Faust has offered to move into the Presidency. We do VERY MUCH need someone to step into the Vice-Presidency. As we discussed at the recent Executive Committee meeting many small clubs and service organizations have ceased to exist as younger individuals are not joining, volunteerism is decreasing, and lock-down is reducing attendance and engagement. We would regret to see a valuable organization like HCRTA close-up because we have no one interested enough to become involved. If you are willing to serve as Vice-President or wish to suggest someone for that office, please let any one of the officers know as soon as possible. In addition to officers, we would appreciate, volunteers to chair or assist the following standing committees: Membership; Legislative; Community Service; Pre-Retirement; Phone Chain; and Scholarship

STRS, ORTA, and ODE News

In the November ORTA Newsletter, Dr. Robin Rayfield mentioned that ORTA would be accepting donation to pay for “a forensic audit of the STRS pension system.”

In that newsletter Dr. Rayfield stated that

... the decision to attempt this [audit] was not an easy one. But after reviewing the circumstances associated with the STRS pension system, we felt it was time to get an independent review of what is going on with our pension system. Some of the important data points that lead ORTA to this decision include:

Retirees are not receiving what was promised and guaranteed by law. We have gone anywhere from 5 to 6 years without receiving the promised level of benefits.

Active teachers are currently paying in 40% more than older retirees paid. Coupled with having to work between 5 to 8 more years beyond the previously required 30 years, this is a significant burden placed upon our active fellow educators.

Projections from STRS indicate that there will be no increase in retiree benefits for 15 to 20 years, despite the promise made to retirees at the time of their retirement. Meanwhile, employees at STRS continue to receive base pay increases and investment staff receive 'performance incentive pay' even though STRS is not achieving its assumed rate of return.

In his December newsletter Dr. Rayfield reported that ORTA had already received nearly \$50,000 of the \$75,000 in donations needed to cover the audit. Sounds like the audit will move forward. I anxiously anticipating the results of this audit.

Dr. Rayfield's news articles of late have also provided an interesting insight into the workings of the STRS board. If you have not read his December report, it is worth the read. The December newsletter was not available on the ORTA web site at the time of this writing, but should be in your email.

(Cut and Return this Portion)
Doris Pulse, HCRTA Treasurer, 11740 State Route 753, Greenfield, OH 45123

Name: _____

_____ HCRTA 2021 Dues (\$5.00)	\$ _____
_____ ORTA 2021 Dues (\$30.00)	\$ _____
_____ Service Project (Lynchburg and Greenfield Food Pantries)	\$ _____
_____ 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.

HIGHLAND COUNTY RETIRED TEADHERS ASSOC. FINANCIAL REPORT - January 4, 2021

Balance as of September 29, 2020 **\$3190.47**

Reciepts

Local Dues	\$ 105.00
ORTA Dues	60.00
Scholarship Fund	220.00
Project-Monkey Beans G. C.	135.00

(Additional checks made out to Monkey Beans Giving Closet \$35.00)

TOTAL Receipts \$ 520.00

Balance Plus Receipts **\$3170.46**

Expenses

Donation to Monkey Beans Giving Closet	\$ 135.00
(Total Donation to MBGC from HCRTA \$170.00)	

Secretary Expenses	
Office Supplies	24.10
Stamps	110.00
Zoom Video Com. Inc	16.00

Total Expenses \$ 285.10

Balance minus expenses **\$2885.36**

CD's

NCD Bank 19 month	\$ 1155.64
NCB Bank 18 month	1046.58
USB bank	689.83

Total \$ 2842.05

HCRTA checking account balance \$ 2650.46

(includes \$1291.60 set aside for general scholarships
Plus \$50.00 in Spargur Scholarship Fund)

CD's 2842.05

Total Assets **\$ 5727.41**

Respectfully Submitted,
Doris Pulse, Treasurer

HOW TO ATTEND A ZOOM MEETING

Zoom is an online video and audio-conferencing platform. It allows a group of people to meet and hold a discussion, but be in different places, such as in each person's home. All you need is a Smart phone, a computer or a basic cell or land line phone (to hear audio only).

Zoom Meeting ID: 864 3059 0344

Meeting Password: **051844**

Android Phone OR iPhone:

1. If you have not already done so, download the Zoom App from the Google Play store or the Apple App Store.
2. Open the Zoom mobile app.
3. Click the Join icon

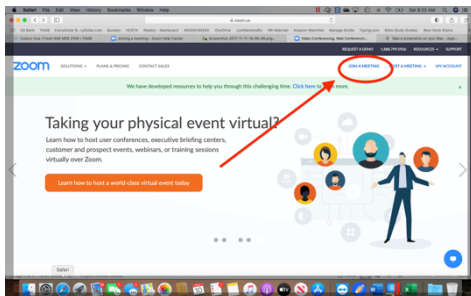


Join

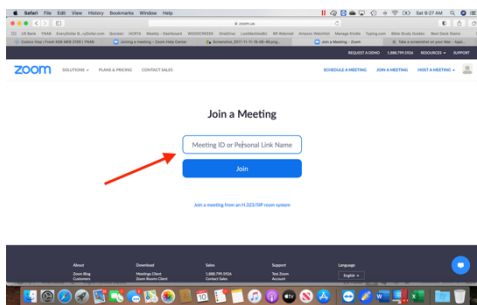
4. Enter the [meeting ID](#) number (864 3059 0344) and your display name.
5. Click Join
6. When prompted click call using Internet Audio

Computer:

1. On a computer open whatever program you usually use to go to the Internet (a web browser such as Safari, Internet Explorer, Chrome, or Edge).
2. Find and Click on the link that says "Join a Meeting"



3. The browser MAY download a small file or extension at this point
4. Enter the meeting ID (864 3059 0344) then click Join



5. If prompted to allow the page to open zoom.us, click allow.
6. If prompted, enter your name.
7. If prompted, select use Internet Audio.

DIAL IN (for Audio Only connection):

1. Dial 1-646-558-8656
2. Key in the meeting ID (864 3059 0344)