

- Note from our Executive Director and Monthly STRS Update
- A word from ORTA President
- Mahoning Co. Chapter Update
- ORTA's Trivia Challenge winner and quiz answers
- ORTA Memorial Section

KEEPING ORTA MEMBERS APPRISED OF HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear ORTA Members,



ORTA President, Bee Lehner

Chapter visitation is underway for your ORTA Executive Officers and Director! This week I had the pleasure of driving to the Pike County Career Technology Center in Piketon, Ohio to address the dedicated officers and members of the Pike County Retired Teachers Association. After sharing the main reason for encouraging their retired teacher friends to join ORTA - to protect pensions and benefits of our members - their president, Larry Meredith shared that in the past year they have been working very hard to recruit new members! Way to go, Larry, and Pike County members! This will certainly help to make our "Association" stronger!

The Pike County Retired Teachers Association is only one of 88 chapters in Ohio making up the Ohio Retired Teachers Association. Each chapter is a vital part of Ohio's Association. We all share a mission and that is "to monitor, advocate for, and protect the pensions and benefits of our members. We also encourage individuals to improve the social and economic changes and issues relevant to our retirement." We can only strengthen our Association by increasing the number of members we bring into our chapters. I encourage you to become as enthusiastic about membership as our Pike County friends are. Start your campaign, **TODAY!**

I am happy to report that since the last newsletter, we have recruited two liaisons for the Southeast Region of Ohio. We are still in search of someone for the Pike, Scioto, Jackson, Lawrence, Galia, and Meigs County area. This area has been so fortunate in the past to have Don Baker as their "District Director" and I know he will be "big shoes to fill!" However, I'm confident that there is someone who will step up to the challenge! After all, you all stood in front of a classroom of students! You can surely address a chapter of "teacher-friends!"

In the February newsletter, I shared a membership incentive program initiated in the state of Georgia, which encourages chapters to increase their membership by at least 10% a year. Once a chapter has met this challenge, that chapter receives \$100 to go toward any program or project they may choose. The chapter gaining the highest percentage of membership in the state also receives a greater amount at the end of the year. This incentive program was discussed at our executive committee in February. We will present the final details in the April newsletter. Stay tuned!

As I close, here's my final March thought to share: "We have a NEW season...SPRINTER...Winter in Spring!" I wish you all a joyful Easter!

Warmest regards!
Bee Lehner, ORTA President

THOUGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director

Greetings Faithful ORTA Members!

Spring is springing! I have had several opportunities to visit local chapters already this year. I am amazed by the energy and excitement at these meetings. Our membership in ORTA remains strong.

I appreciate the efforts by local chapters to grow membership in ORTA. At a recent local chapter meeting in February I learned that many of that chapter's membership had passed. In fact, during the service honoring the members that had passed in 2017 the presiding officer noted that their chapter had lost 50 members in the previous 2-year period! The loss of so many friends and colleagues is heartbreaking, however, the services for those lost was something that the family members and friends will cherish for a long time.

Roads Scholar Program

ORTA members are aware of the many benefits available through our partner AMBA. One of these benefits is the Roads Scholar Program. The Roads Scholar program offers travel benefits to ORTA members at a terrific discount. Educational travel programs specifically designed for retired educators are available to all 50 states and over 150 countries around the world. Roads Scholar is offering an additional discount to ORTA members interested in taking advantage of this benefit.

Check out our partners link on the ORTA website at www.orta.org.

Trivia

Have you noticed the trivia questions on the ORTA webpage? If you answer the questions correctly, you are placed into a drawing for a prize from ORTA. Take the trivia challenge and best of luck!

STRS Update

At February's STRS Board of Trustees' meeting the Board announced some good news! The STRS Healthcare fund is currently at a 150% funding level! At a time when healthcare is on everyone's mind it is comforting to know that our funding is at such a level. The reasons for this increase include:

- Due to pension reform, more people are retiring later in life. This translates into more people in the Medicare program and fewer in the more expensive non-Medicare program.
- The growth in Medicare premiums were less than projected resulting in savings.
- The 'usage' of the insurance program was less than projected.

(con't from previous page)

Although none of us can predict the future with any certainty, the outlook for our healthcare program is positive!

As I have become involved with my work here at ORTA, I have enjoyed many opportunities to speak with STRS employees gaining a better understanding of how our pension system works. I constantly ask the question about the health of our pension system and when retirees might expect increase in our pension payments.

What I have learned is this:

- Our pension system is based upon actuarial assumptions. STRS hires the best talent available to make these projections. Some of those projections include how long people will live after retirement, how much the final years salary will be, how much money will come into the system through contributions of active teachers, and how much money our investments will produce. One small change in the actuarial used can have a significant impact on our pension system.
- One of the biggest impacts on our pension system (in part responsible for the loss of COLA) was a change made by governmental agencies that required STRS to change the actuarial associated with how long people will live. Previously, our figures were based upon 5-year analysis of real figures. Each year STRS could look at actual life span data to determine how long people would live and average these data over a five-year period. A change in requirements forced STRS to calculate life span data including the estimated life span of a person entering the workforce. This, seemingly small, change resulted in a \$10 billion liability to our pension system! That change in the actuarial calculation had to be accounted for at one time. There was no 'phase in' for this change. So, our pension system had to 'save' the \$10 billion in one action. Thus, the change in COLA that we all felt in our wallet.
- In 2017 our pension system was funded at a level above 75%. That is up significantly from 2016. Hopefully, this trend continues in 2018 and STRS recipients can look forward to enhancement to our benefits.

As the spring meetings of local chapters continue to take place I hope that I can visit your local RTA. I do enjoy meeting with and visiting the many wonderful members of ORTA.

Best Regards,

Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director

LAUGH OF THE MONTH

Q: Which school supply is king of the classroom?

A: the Ruler!



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR YEARLY ORTA DUES?

A friendly reminder that if you need to renew your ORTA dues (\$30), now is the time!

You can now pay online ([click here](#)) with credit card, making it faster and more convenient than ever. We can of course still accept checks mailed to the office at:

**8050 N. High Street
Suite 190
Columbus, Ohio 43235**

Your membership is important! We are here to serve you. Your membership helps keep us going, so we want to say thank you for your loyalty to ORTA, and we wouldn't be here without **YOU**.

***PLEASE SEE THE BACK PAGE TO FILL OUT YOUR RENEWAL DUES FORM TO SEND TO US WITH YOUR CHECK PAYMENT**



JOBS BOARD

Outreach Specialist Position Available

Dynamic Public Speaker Needed! The Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) is seeking a dynamic, energetic team member to engage the public and communicate SWACO's important message about waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting. The qualified candidate must be comfortable interacting with a variety of audiences, including residents, businesses, and elected officials. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of sustainable solid waste management practices and experience in environmental communication. Must be hands-on, able to research and develop new resources and programs, and must be an independent worker. The Outreach Specialist will regularly interact with the public, and therefore must enjoy communicating with a variety of audiences. They must also provide exceptional customer service and follow-through. Join a team dedicated to moving central Ohio towards a 75% diversion goal!

Interested candidates should apply through the following link:

<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/jobs/swaco-1cafb318/outreach-specialist-bf4eb044>

Instructor in Math and Reading Kumon Math and Reading Center of Solon OH

This is a part-time hourly position. The Center is open for class on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:30 to 7:00 and Saturdays from 9:30 to 12:30. Preference will be given to persons available for all three time periods.

Position Environment:

The Kumon Center of Solon is a franchise of the International Kumon Program, the world's largest after-school supplemental educational program. The Solon Center is rated as one of the top thirty centers in the North American Region of 1500 centers.

The Solon Center provides a very friendly work environment with a number of retired teachers on staff.

Job Description:

Positions are available for instructors with expertise working with children at various levels from Pre-K through high school in Math or Reading. Following training, instructors work with 1-4 students at a time implementing a preset program in Math or Reading.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree

Experience in working with children in academic setting

Competency in specific level of Math or Reading and an ability to assist students in that level.

For more information about Kumon of Solon, please go to www.kumon.com/solon

Please send resume to kumonsolon@gmail.com

CATCHING UP WITH GREENE CO.



Above: 2019 President-Elect, Gale Adkins with Linda Beaver, and ORTA Executive Director, Robin Rayfeild

Greene Co. held its luncheon meeting February 28, 2018. The meeting was held in Xenia, with ORTA Executive Director, Robin Rayfeild attending as guest and speaker.

Dr. Rayfeild primarily spoke on the region changes in ORTA, and other plans the organization has for the coming year and how they will impact the members in Greene Co.

To learn more about Greene Co., please visit their [chapter site](#).

WHAT'S ORTA UP TO?



Take a look at what's coming up in April and where our Executive Director and Executive Committee will be! The calendar is always available on our website. Follow the link to view: <http://www.orta.org/calendar.html>

Tuesday, April 10

11:30am Medina County Chapter Meeting | Kendra Burger Attending

Wednesday, April 11

10:00am ORTA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 12

10:00am ORSC @ Ohio Statehouse | Robin Rayfeild Attending

Thursday, April 19

8:30am STRS Monthly Meeting | Robin Rayfeild Attending

6:00pm Logan Co. Chapter Meeting | Bellefontaine United Methodist Church | Robin Rayfeild Attending

Monday, April 30

11:30am Monroe County Chapter Meeting | Robin Rayfeild Attending



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advocates for your benefits. You can

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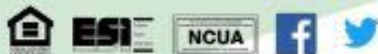
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Earn Up To \$250
On Home Equity Loans & Mortgages
Exclusively For ORTA Members-

And Earn Up To A Lifetime ORTA Membership!

ORTA Members who open a new certificate of 36 months or greater, with new money can earn .25% more than the current stated rate. New money means funds not currently on deposit with Education First Credit Union. Mortgage and Home Equity loans are subject to underwriting guidelines. NMLS#811029. Home Equity Loan and Mortgage Loan offers are valid for 1/2 of 1% of the balance of loan, not to exceed \$250. Funds will be deposited to Share Account or applied as a closing cost credit. For certificates \$25,000-\$49,999 you will earn a one year paid ORTA membership. For certificates \$50,000-\$99,999 you will earn a two-year paid ORTA membership. For certificates greater than \$100,000 you will earn a lifetime paid ORTA membership. For home equity loans or mortgages \$25,000-\$49,999 you will earn a one-year paid ORTA membership. For home equity loans or mortgages \$50,000-\$99,999 you will earn a two-year paid ORTA membership. For home equity or mortgages \$100,000 or greater you will earn a lifetime paid ORTA membership. Some restrictions may apply. Offer is subject to change at any time and without advance notice. **Offers cannot be combined with any other credit union offers.**

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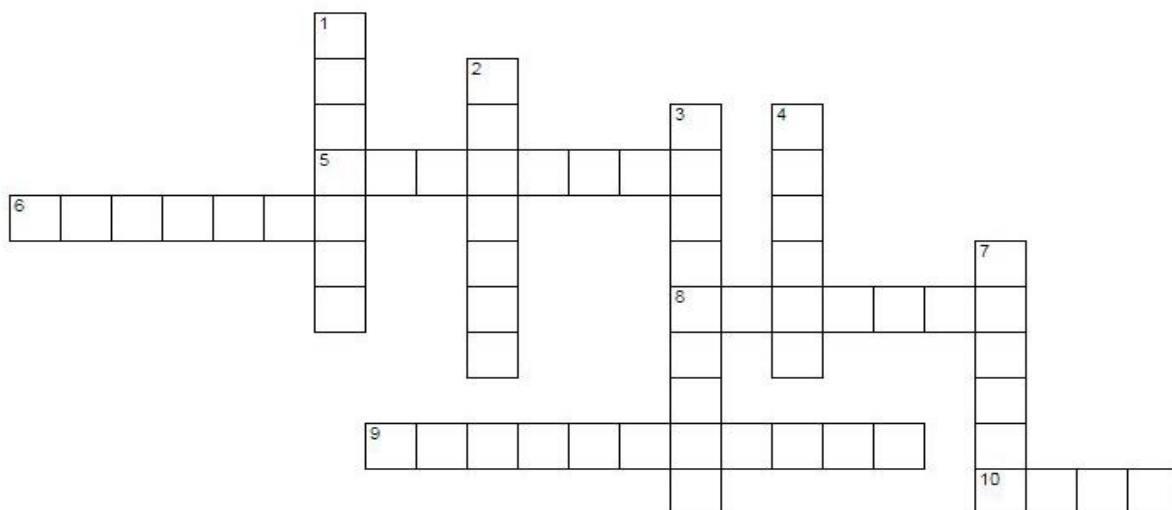
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ORTA WORD FIND

Stuck waiting for Spring? Print out this page to play our ORTA crossword puzzle!



CLUES:

ACROSS

- 5 Another word for Teacher
- 6 Benefits received post-retirement
- 8 Post-Secondary education programs
- 9 Algebra, Geometry, Calculus are all part of...
- 10 State Teachers Retirement System

DOWN

- 1 Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy are all a part of...
- 2 A word that is usually listed along with school staff
- 3 Leader of the school
- 4 Students
- 7 Elementary School break time



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Do you know an ORTA Centenarian member? In upcoming newsletters, we will be honoring those turning or have turned 100 years or more. Please email birthday information to Alissa at publications@orta.org

TELL YOUR CHAPTER MEMBER FRIENDS!

22 REASONS TO JOIN



- Promotes quality healthcare coverage through leadership with the Health Care and Pension Advocates (HPA)
- Represents Ohio retired educators at STRS committees and meetings
- Represents retired educators in Washington D.C.
- Supports the repeal of the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Preservation (WEP)
- Opposes mandatory Social Security for Ohio Educators
- Participates in the National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)
- Represents retired educators at Ohio's General Assembly
- Testifies at state legislation hearing committees
- Monitors and tracks all legislation affecting retired educators
- Maintains a staffed state office to coordinate statewide activities and support chapters and regions
- ORTA is committed informing it's members of benefits news and developments from STRS
- Assist with leadership training at regional and local chapter levels
- Keeps an up-to-date website with current ORTA news and information; www.orta.org
- Publishes a monthly newsletter with ORTA state news and local chapter coverage that is emailed to thousands of members
- Developed a social media presence including a Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to promote the retired educators voice
- Encourages chapter and local development by providing resources for local volunteer and job opportunities
- Represents ALL educators including collegiate instructors
- Provides membership options for educator spouses' (who receive STRS benefits)
- Serving Ohio's retired educators for over 70 years

ORTA'S 5 REGIONS



- Has partnered with one of the largest association benefits providers (AMBA) to offer exclusive supplemental dental, vision, health coverage plus numerous other advantages to ORTA members.
- Developed a relationship with Education First Credit Union to create new banking opportunities with retired educators including competitive loan rates, CDs and credit card options.

IN MEMORIAM:

ORTA is sad to announce the passing of the following members:

Gwen Addy, retired teacher and ORTA Member of Ottawa County; Nadine Zimmer, retired teacher and ORTA member and Treasurer of Darke Co.; Sandra Finkbine also a member of Darke Co.

We send our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones as we share in their memory.

**Do you know deceased members you would like ORTA to list in this section?*

If so, please see our new page on our website ([click here](#)).

“It’s hard to forget someone who has given you so much to remember.”

–Unknown



With Sympathy...

...AND THE ORTA TRIVIA CHALLENGE WINNER IS:



Congratulations to latest ORTA Trivia winner! They chose to remain anonymous, but we are happy to have another winner! Thanks to all who participated!

Here are the correct challenge answers:

Roy J. Plunkett of New Carlisle, Ohio invented...?

Correct answer is: **b) Teflon**

What percent of Ohio schools are considered “suburban”?

Correct answer is: **a) 20%**

In what Ohio county was the state’s first schoolhouse constructed?

Correct answer is: **c) Tuscarawas Co.**

MAHONING CO. CHAPTER UPDATE

Mahoning Retired Teachers Board met recently to finalize plans for their new season. President Susan Harris welcomed and thanked the new officers, Phil Butto, 1sr Vice President, Angie Bilkie, 2nd Vice President, Debbie Mettee, Treasurer, and Mary Grace Fowler, Secretary.

The organization will meet at a new location, Drake's landing in Canfield, the second Wednesday in March, May, June, September, November and December. Program Chairperson, Phil Butto announced the programs for the year, and Community Service Chairperson, Kim Pontuti announced the projects for each meeting.

March's program will feature Brigid Lackey from Mercy Health, speaking on "Health in the Home," and the Community Service project will be donations for 'Making Kids Count.'" Barb Ade, Newsletter Chairperson, announced the newsletters will be sent out on email to members having this service. This will save the group money on postage.

Web Master Debbie Haverstock will post all information & activities of MRTA on the website. Susan Harris thanked all chairpersons for their continued help and support of MRTA.

Please visit the [Mahoning Co. website](#) for more details

ORTA 2017 FINANCIAL REVIEW STATEMENT

As a valued ORTA member, we want to share all the organizations standings with you. We have recently received our annual financial review. Please see our website for last year's review statement from our CPA, and the results from 2017 will be posted soon.

Follow the link to view our 2015-2016 review:
<http://www.orta.org/orta-audit-information.html>



WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

We want to put you and your chapter in the monthly newsletter!
Contact Alissa at publications@orta.org, or download a submission from our website ([click here](#)) and send all submission materials to:

Ohio Retired Teachers | Suite 190
c/o: Publications
8050 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43235

We can't wait to share your stories!

VOLUNTEER AT ORTA!

Have some spare time and would like to help in the ORTA office?
We are always looking for help on projects, and we would love to see you here! Please call the office during normal business hours, **7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.** if interested:
614.431.7002 | 8050 North High Street | Suit 190, Columbus Ohio 43235





**OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**
(PLEASE PRINT, TYPE OR USE PERSONAL NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL)

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NAME (AS LISTED WITH STRS)		PHONE NUMBER	
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STATE	ZIP	MEMBER ID NUMBER (IF AVAILABLE)	
E-MAIL <small>(IF APPLICABLE; FOR NEWSLETTER, ANNOUNCEMENTS ETC.)</small>	YEAR OF RETIREMENT	LIFE MEMBER OF ORTA?	
MEMBERSHIP(S) (CHECK ONE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER \$500		<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER (1/4 LIFE) \$125	
<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER (1/2 LIFE) \$250		<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA ANNUAL DUES \$30	
COUNTY/LOCAL		TOTAL	

**THANK YOU!
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS
IMPORTANT TO US!**

Please print, cut out, complete and send for your **NEW ORTA** membership.



**OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
NEW MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM**
(PLEASE PRINT, TYPE OR USE PERSONAL NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL)

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MEMBERSHIP(S) (CHECK ONE)			
<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER \$500		<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER (1/4 LIFE) \$125	
<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA LIFE MEMBER (1/2 LIFE) \$250		<input type="checkbox"/> ORTA NEW MEMBER DUES \$40	
COUNTY/LOCAL		TOTAL	

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