

ORTA FALL BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2015 OSBA/ORTA BUILDING



PRESIDING: Darlene Ruzicka, President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Carol Remington, President-elect; Randy Overbeck, Western Area VP; Jean Slicker, Eastern Area VP; Don Ullmann, 2015 Past President\*

GUEST SPEAKERS: Ryan Miller, Director, Ohio Habitat for Humanity

Terrie Huston, Intergenerational Communications Solutions

WEBMASTER: Deloris Ullmann\*\*

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Carole Wolfe	District I		Karen Butt	District VI Co-Director
Bruce Hodges	District II		Sandy Holcombe	District VI Co-Director
Liz Van Tine	District III		Don Baker*	District VII
Mary Kay Fischer	District IV Co-Director		Jo Ann Ingram	District VIII
Martha Henry	District IV Co-Director		William Jabs	District IX
Mary Thomas	District V Co-Director		Rebecca Zurava	District X
Jo Ann Zimmerman	District V Co-Director		Carol Kinsey	District XI

TRUSTEES

Dan Baker**	Franklin		June Logan	Mahoning
Stella Hull	Grtr Cleveland		Maxine Rutledge	Montgomery
Kent Rawlings	Hamilton		Ron Snowberger	Portage
Karen Sprague	Lorain		Lewistine Holloway	Stark
Claudia Trombla	Lucas		Denise Deltondo	Trumbull

\*\* Absent (excused) \*Left at 1:00 p.m.

STAFF

Ann Hanning, Executive Director; Mary Lauer, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer; Tom Seamon, Director of Publications; Helena Zvansky, Administrative Assistant/Membership

NEWLY ELECTED

Gale Adkins, Western Area VP; Kathie Bracy, Franklin Trustee; Helena Parry, Portage Trustee; Bee Lehner, District IX Director

GUESTS: Loretta Hodges; David Sprague, Bill and Scott Phillips, Nancy Browning

WELCOME – Darlene welcomed the attendees, Randy led the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions were made.

*MINUTES – Randy Overbeck moved to accept the 2015 Spring Board Minutes as written. Don Ullmann seconded. Motion carried.*

NOMINATIONS Report was made by Don Ullmann, chair. Don asked for nominations from the floor. None were made. Jean Slicker, current Eastern Area Vice President was re-elected unanimously.

Karen Butt nominated Gale Adkins for Western Area Vice President. Don Ullmann asked for nominations from the floor. None were made. Gale Adkins was elected unanimously.

Randy Overbeck is automatically nominated for President-elect per the Bylaws. Don Ullmann asked for nominations from the floor. None were made. Randy was elected unanimously.

*Don Ullmann moved that the Nominations be closed. Motion approved.*

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT – Don Baker, Chair, recommends ORTA reduce the Spending Policy from the current 8% to 4% from the investment portfolio.

*Don Baker, on behalf of the Finance Committee, moved to accept the 2016 Proposed Budget as presented. Motion approved.*

Carol Remington stated that more marketing is needed in lieu of more communication. More outreach with Pre-Retirement seminars to increase visibility of ORTA was discussed. Gale Adkins shared Greene County's use of free public radio and tv ads, newspapers and flyers in schools to reach potential members.

CHAPTER VISITS – Darlene shared a map of ORTA Officers' visits to ORTA chapters to reveal some chapters have not had an ORTA representative attend a meeting. She also shared copies of a Funds request letter she sent to Speaker of the House, John Boehner.

Carol Kinsey, Legislative Chair, stated the urgency to write legislators concerning Medicare B. If legislation passes, the cost increases will be devastating to many STRS and ORTA members.

In regards to gifting ORTA, Kent Rawlings stated Hamilton RTA Executive Board voted unanimously to donate \$10,000 as a gift without any stipulation.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS – All officers, re-elected and newly elected board members were present and were installed. See page one for the details.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Carol Kinsey, Chair, shared information on ORTA's REO-PAC. Remaining funds are in a separate bank account. The fund was established about 14 years ago. Funds were solicited to campaign for STRS to acquire a second retiree seat on their Board. In order to save expensive re-filing fees, Carol made the following motion.

*Carol Kinsey, Legislative Committee Chair, moved to retain the current (but dormant) REO-PAC.*

Carol stated the Legislative Committee is a Team with the ORTA Board and all Chapter Presidents to be "Involved and Informed."

*Carol Kinsey moved to accept the Legislative Committee Report.*

The 2016 Proposed Legislative Guidelines were approved.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS – Carol Remington kicked off the 2016 Campaign with yellow “Hard Hats and tool belts. She shared some information from her letter to ORTA Chapter Presidents, Community Service and Public Relations Committee Chairs that was sent on October 23, 2015. A copy of the letter and a map of current H4H programs was included in everyone’s packet. Jo Ann Zimmerman and Claudia Trombla spoke of the program bringing more visibility and community appeal for retired teachers.

Ryan Miller, Executive Director of Ohio’s H4H, states that he will send a News Release to Ohio papers stating the new partnership. He shared a 7 minute motivational video. The 2015 A H4H State Conference is in Columbus on October 28 at the Doubletree Hotel. For more information: [www.habitatohio.org](http://www.habitatohio.org).

AMBA – Sudi Naraine and Jim Cain announced new incentive programs to increase ORTA membership and to benefit individuals with a money saving restaurant Gift Card and travel discounts. AMBA’s goal is for 1,000 new ORTA members in 2016.

BYLAWS- Stella Hull, Chair, reported on the results of the votes via ballots from the Summer Issue of the Quarterly Newsletter. The new bylaws passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/LEGISLATIVE AGENT – Ann Hanning sent a three page written report, via email, a few days prior to the board meeting and shared the current information regarding HR 711, the WEP bill. At that time, 43 bi-partisans had co-sponsored it.

She shared the major concern which regards Medicare Part B premiums predicted increase. STRS and SERS have sent letters to John Boehner’s office. A joint-letter, co-signed by SERO, PERI and ORTA has also been sent to the same office.

Public Pension reform may be imminent for all public pensions to be in the Social Security system without a Defined Benefit option.

State issues involve Charter School funding, Board of Education appointments (Youngstown) and the mitigating rate for STRS higher ed members.

SPRING 2016 AREA CONFERENCES – Dates and venues have been set. The agenda will include ORTA’s new Executive Director and a Habitat for Humanity report. Carol Remington states she will contact District Directors and Trustees for input regarding the afternoon breakout sessions.

SURVEY/NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT – Terrie Huston, shared the results of the surveys were returned via email and the link in the *Quarterly Newsletter*. Apparent revelation of some areas may need improvement in transparency.