

SPRING ORTA BOARD MEETING
MAY 19, 2015

OSBA/ORTA BUILDING – COLUMBUS, OHIO



PRESIDING: Darlene Ruzicka, President

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

SPECIAL GUESTS: Jim Miller, National Consultant-Public Pensions, Terrie Huston, Intergenerational Communications Solutions

WEBMASTER: Deloris Ullmann

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

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

TRUSTEES

Franklin, Dan Baker
Greater Cleveland, Stella Hull
Hamilton, Kent Rawlings**
Lorain, Karen Sprague
Lucas, Claudia Trombla**

Mahoning, June Logan
Montgomery, Maxine Rutledge
Portage, Ron Snowberger
Stark, Lewistine Holloway**
Trumbull, Denise Deltondo

ABSENT** (Excused)
STAFF

Ann Hanning, Executive Director; Mary Lauer, Adm. Asst./Treasurer; Helena Zvansky, Adm. Asst./Membership; Tom Seamon, Director of Publications

GUESTS

Bill Phillips, Dave Gynn, Helena Parry, Loretta Hodges, Janet Baker, and David Sprague

WELCOME – Darlene Ruzicka commenced the meeting at 10:05 by welcoming all. Carol Remington led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Darlene installed District Co-Director, Martha Henry.

MINUTES – JoAnn Zimmerman moved to accept the 2014 Fall Board Meeting Minutes as written. Sandy Holcombe second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Darlene stated today’s meeting will include reports from certain committee chairs whose committees who have met earlier this year. She introduced Tom Seamon, who shared the state office’s publications distribution policy. Darlene’s handout included highlights of Jacqueline Wolven’s keynote speech at the ORTA Spring Conference. Darlene reported the Executive committee has reviewed the current job descriptions for the ORTA staff.

FINANCE REPORT – Don Baker, Chair stated the committee had met with William Powelson, CPA. Mr. Powelson explained the difference between an audit and a review. The Finance Committee decided to continue the practice of an auditor’s review. The same meeting included the Investment Manager, Mike Iannarino’s annual report. He will update the asset allocation portion of the Investment Policy.

Membership Chair, Bruce Hodges, moved that ORTA continue to sell Life Memberships with all receipts to be deposited as a separate line item in the budget. The annual ORTA dues per new Life Member to be transferred from this account to the ORTA general fund, effective January 1, 2016. Adopted.

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES – Stella Hull, Chair, shared the proposed changes to the two documents.

Stella Hull, Chair, moved that the revisions to the Standing rules as presented by the committee, be adopted. Motion adopted.

Stella Hull, Chair, moved that the revisions to the Bylaws of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association as presented by the committee, be adopted, published and be voted upon by the ORTA membership. Motion adopted.

MEMBERSHIP – Bruce Hodges, Chair, reported statistics regarding ORTA membership as compared to chapter membership. A plan was discussed to encourage dual membership in the organization.

Bruce Hodges, Chair, moved, that local chapters’ bylaws will include unified dues for new members. The ORTA state office will rebate chapters 10% for each NEW annual ORTA dues paid, effective date, January 1, 2016. Motion adopted.

SURVEY/NEEDS COMMITTEE – Ann Hanning reported for Karen Butt (excused absence) the results of the meeting with a professional communications consultant, Terrie Huston. The committee recommended hiring Terrie Huston.

TERRIE HUSTON, Intergenerational Communications Solutions, spoke to the Board explaining the difference between communication audits used to determine what strategies are needed to further clarification of who, what and how to communicate. The first audit, Internal Communications Audit will begin this June. Results will be available this fall. The Board was favorable to this action recognizing the value. Details will be forthcoming this summer as the program continues.

PUBLIC RELATIONS-JoAnn Zimmerman, reporting for Claudia Trombla (excused absence), stated that ORTA is an “inward organization.” ORTA will work towards increased visibility. A plan to work with Habitat for Humanity was shared. It could be used as a public relation tool to increase statewide awareness of ORTA’s existence. Investigation for including chapters continues.

WEBSITE-Deloris Ullmann, Webmaster, suggests the Technology Committee be responsible for Chapter Websites, supervising and assisting where needed. She said every chapter should have a Technology Committee.

Deloris stated she is retiring December 31, 2015, after 12 years as ORTA's Webmaster. She suggests that ORTA continue to use more technology for communication.

NATIONAL PENSION CONSULTANT-Jim Miller, spoke the Board regarding two main issues effecting retired teachers nationally.

- 1) Maintain their independence from Social Security
- 2) Maintain the Defined Benefit Plan

He stated the Good News for 2015 is that there is no legislation regarding mandatory social security (2015 – 2016 is in an election cycle). In 1935, Congress prohibited public employees to participate in Social Security.

HR 711, the Brady Bill, does not repeal the WEP, it replaces it with a new formula. There are no hearings scheduled. A repeal bill has been introduced. The offset is being studied. Ann Hanning, on behalf of ORTA, has sent a support letter to Rep. Renacci, Rep. Brady and Rep. Neal. Handouts on HR711 and GPO/WEP definitions had been emailed (and snail mailed to non-email board members).

At this time public pension systems are in "good shape." However, threats are imminent. The Cadillac Tax, if imposed will place an excise tax on healthcare premiums. The Arnold Foundation is working to transform defined benefit pension plans into defined contribution plan.

Jim concluded by stating Ohio has strong leaders supporting pension legislation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-Ann Hanning, reported that HB 64, Ohio's budget bill needs to pass both House and Senate by June 30, 2015. . Ann also spoke of AMBA's Age Append Study which will be shared with ORTA. The report may facilitate in determining recently or soon to be retired STRS beneficiaries. Ann requested ORTA Board members sign and return to her, two IRS forms: a 990 Form and a Conflict of Interest Disclosure statement, a Code of Ethics and other items were given to members for their files.

SPRING CONFERENCE REVIEW- Tom Seamon compiled a summary of all the evaluation and comments sheets. The majority strongly agreed that it was a successful conference. Darlene thanked Ann for inviting Jacqueline Wolven, an effective keynote speaker. The over-budgeted cost was termed as "investing in ORTA."

COMMITTEE REPORTS- Don Ullmann, Nominating Committee Chair, announced that applicants for 2016 - 2018 Western Area Vice President need to contact him and/or committee members, Dave Gynn and Karen Butt. Randy Overbeck is automatically nominated for President-elect. There can be nominations from the floor. Jean Slicker needs to be nominated for a second year term. District Directors (from Odd numbered Districts) and Trustees may be eligible for re-election or in need of a replacement starting January 1, 2016. The list of names will be forthcoming.

Carol Kinsey, Legislative Chair, encouraged anyone sharing legislative news or information should only include issues pertaining to retired teachers, pension systems and plans.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,

Mary J. Lauer

