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FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2018 ORTA President, Bee Lehner

Summer greetings, Members!

I can't believe we're nearly halfway through the month of July! I know most chapters take off the month of July and wait until August or September to hold their next chapter meeting. Since "chapter visitation" is a bit slow right now, I thought perhaps this would be a good time to share some thoughts about our individual strengths and talents as ORTA members and officers, and how we can search out the "best" people for a particular job or position in our chapters.

A few weeks ago, our pastor shared a message on the "spiritual gifts" of which we are given and use to serve and strengthen one another. As I sat and listened to his words, I couldn't help but apply many of these same "gifts" to our ORTA members and their chapters' officers. Here is a very abbreviated list of qualities, which inspired me to share his words.

Encouragement

This is the gift of motivating others to respond to members' needs by providing timely words of encouragement and consolation. This gift includes strengthening, inspiring, consoling, and comforting others. People with this gift stand ready to give an encouraging word, a needed hug, or a listening ear. Do you have someone who fits this description? Why not ask them to be in charge of sending cards to members who are unable to attend meetings because of health reasons or calling on those members who live alone and seldom have visitors?

Evangelism

Now I don't want to scare you here with the word "evangelism," however, it's a Greek word meaning to "spread the word." People with this gift are good at bringing in new members. People with this gift are usually very outgoing, enthusiastic, good listeners, and comfortable talking about their organization. Wouldn't it be wonderful if ALL our members could "spread the word" about ORTA and the good works of their local chapters? We need a lot of people in our local chapters who have this gift, to begin using it this fall!

Giving

The gift of giving is the ability to contribute material resources with generosity and cheerfulness for the benefit of others. People with this gift need not be wealthy. This gift is sometimes translated as "generosity" and means "to share". People with this gift like to give quietly and without acknowledgment. They are never stingy and share with no strings attached. They are usually lighthearted rather than depressed and have a strong interest in the mission of the organization. You all have members who will buy that raffle ticket which helps with your "scholarship fund!" Or, how about the member who bequeaths a "sum of money or property" to support your local chapter?

(con'd on next page)

Helping

This gift comes from the Greek word that means, “To aid and assist another in need”. The gift is reciprocal in that the receiver does as much for the giver as the giver does to the receiver. People with this gift give from their skills, talents, and energy to help others who have an apparent need. This recalled back to the “volunteer programs” in which we all find ourselves a part of! Most chapter members are giving of their time and talents 50% of each week! (OR MORE!) Encourage that involvement! That’s what helps to keep us young and moving!!

Hospitality

Hospitality is the gift of making others feel “welcomed and comfortable.” People with this gift often love to entertain. But it can also be manifested by a warm handshake or hug, a bright smile, and a tendency to greet new people and help them get acclimated. People are drawn to those with the gift of hospitality and they help others make connections. This gift is of GREAT importance as you begin your new “chapter year” this August or September! ALL members should be sharing the gift of hospitality with NEW or POTENTIAL members! Members are the life-blood of ORTA! When your retired, someone presented you with their gift of hospitality and now it’s your turn to pass it forward! Invite (and bring) a friend or colleague to your next meeting!

Leadership

This gift is the ability to motivate, coordinate, and direct the efforts of others in doing the ORTA chapter’s work. People with this gift can get people to work together toward a goal. They have a vision for the future. They can also give directions to others in a caring way that creates willing followers. They are not afraid to take risks. They are also able to make unpopular decisions. Do you know someone like this in your chapter? Perhaps that person would make an excellent president, vice-president or member of a “leadership team!” I CHALLENGE YOU!! Step forward if you believe you have this talent or gift!

Teacher/Teaching

I’m sure you’re not surprised to learn that “being a teacher or teaching” is a GIFT! This gift is the ability to guide and care for others as they grow. People with this gift are usually very patient. They are good listeners. They often care deeply for others. They love people. They are viewed as “authoritative” by others. They are more of a leader than a follower. They are expressive, composed, and sensitive. They like to study. They have a burden to see others learn and grow. They tend to think in terms of groups or teams rather than individual personalities. They like to do research. They ask a lot of questions. They are objective thinkers and look for the facts. They enjoy encouraging others to develop their talents. They enjoy nurturing and caring for a group of people over an extended period of time no surprise!! As ORTA members, we continue to be life-long teachers and learners! Encourage your colleagues to continue using this very special talent!

How will **YOU** use your gifts as you begin another ORTA chapter year?

Thought for the Day: ***“Use what talent you possess! The woods would be very silent if NO birds sang except those that sang best!”*** ~ Henry van Dyke

Enjoy the remainder of our summertime! Chat again in August!

Yours Truly,
Bee Lehner, ORTA President

FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings ORTA Members!

The summer months are a busy time for us here at ORTA. Traveling to so many local ORTA Chapters has kept me busy and allowed me to meet many outstanding ORTA leaders. I continue to be amazed by all the wonderful local projects and activities our members are involved with.

STRS News

You may have seen or heard of the recent activities at STRS. The fiscal year for STRS closed recently with good news on the investment front. STRS earned an estimated **9.7%** on its investments, above the benchmark of **7.45%**. Hopefully, the investors (and the markets) continue to out perform targets over the 2019 fiscal year.

At the June 21, 2018 meeting I represented ORTA with a short ‘speech’ during the public participation portion of the meeting. You can see my comments [here on our website](#). Aside from my comments, a large group of retirees and active members of STRS also spoke out on the matter of COLA. 10 other speakers commented on what the loss of COLA meant to them and other retirees. Dean Dennis and others organized a ‘protest’ of the actuarial assumptions that STRS has used to determine that STRS used to suspend COLA and demanded a return to COLA increases for STRS recipients. After the public participation portion of the program the retirees from southwest Ohio took to the street in front of the STRS building and staged a short demonstration urging STRS to return to COLA increases. The actions by these retirees certainly had an impact on the hearts and minds of the STRS Board of Trustees.

One positive piece of information that has emerged from STRS is the decision to continue to provide a \$29.90 monthly subsidy to STRS beneficiaries on the Medicare insurance program. This subsidy was scheduled to be discontinued on January 1, 2019. Through our participation in HPA (Healthcare Pension Advocates for STRS), ORTA successfully lobbied the STRS Board of Trustees to maintain this benefit. Our efforts were rewarded with action by the STRS Board of Trustees vote to continue this important subsidy.

Membership Incentive

ORTA is offering every local chapter that increases their membership to ORTA by **10% a \$100** incentive. This is money from ORTA to each local chapter that see an increase in ORTA membership of 10% to be used as that local chapter see fit. Many local presidents have communicated that they will use this money to help fund scholarships to students or active teacher grants. At my visit to Lake Co. RTA I was able to see, first hand, the wonderful opportunities active teachers are taking advantage of. Teachers of music, foreign language, physical education and science all provided an update of what they did with teacher grants to improve educational outcomes at their schools. Logan Co. RTA teachers grants also provided wonderful classroom opportunities for children. Just because we are retired from education does not mean we can't impact what is going on in classrooms across the state!



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA
Executive Director

(con'd on next page)

In addition to the wonderful work that is going on in the 88 Local Chapters of ORTA, the state ORTA organization remains engaged with protecting benefits of the **150,000** plus STRS retirees. Each ORTA member is encouraged to reach out and encourage other STRS beneficiaries to join our fight. ORTA's voice is strengthened by increases in our membership.

Regional Liaisons

By now many ORTA members have met their ORTA Regional Liaison. These ORTA leaders are busy meeting with local chapters offering support to the RTAs. If you haven't met yours please check the ORTA website at www.orta.org to get their contact information. Or call the ORTA office and we will make sure you are contacted.

ORTA on Social Media

ORTA is attempting to reach out to our members in a variety of ways. One of these efforts includes through Facebook. Many announcements are posted to the ORTA Facebook page. Please **'like'** our page when you see something of interest. We are also working with the "Ohio STRS Members Only" Facebook group. This is a group of STRS retirees that share ORTAs desire to enhance our benefits.

Stay well and stay in touch with the ORTA office.

Best Regards,
Dr. Robin Rayfield

FEATURED REGIONAL LIAISON

Central Liaison Patricia Bateman is a transplant to Central Ohio from Portage County. She started her career late, after getting married to her husband, Daryl and having three children Michael, Matthew and Jennifer. Patricia then finished her degree at Kent State University in 1977.

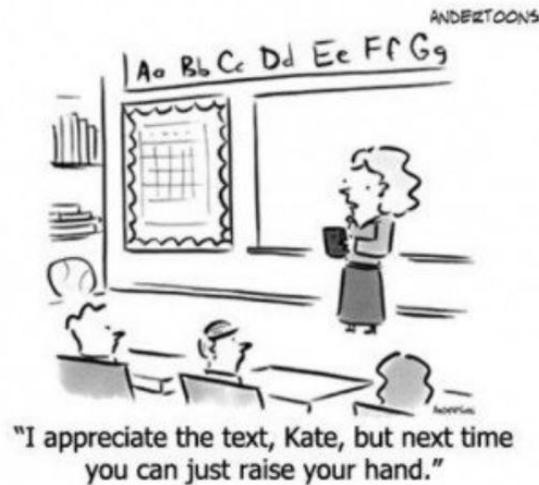
She then started her career at Kent State University lab school as a preschool teacher. She was employed in Tallmadge City Schools as a third-grade teacher in 1978. Then, she continued her education receiving administrative certificate in 1989 and was employed by Field Local Schools as the Principal of Brimfield Elementary School. Later, she became Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Field Local Schools. In 1999, Ms. Bateman became the superintendent at Maplewood Career Center until 2004 when finally retiring after 26 years in education.



Patricia Bateman

In 2005, her and her husband Daryl and moved to Columbus. They both got involved with Delaware County RTA and served as Membership Chairpersons, Treasurer and webmaster. Ms. Bateman has also been involved with ORTA as a District 6 Director, Interim Executive Director, and now is a Central Ohio Alternate Liaison. We look forward to her serving and the Central Ohio Liaison Team!

LAUGH OF THE MONTH



EARNING BIG IN ERIE CO.!

Erie County Retired Teachers recognized their grant recipients at the June meeting. The grants provided support for STEAM projects in the classroom. Four recipients spoke to ECRTA about how they spent the money and the impact the grants had in their classroom this past year and in the future. Pictured in order from left to right are **Janet Michel** from Firelands Montessori who partnered with **Kirsti Hemphill** (not pictured), **Patty Ryan** from Huron High, **Deb Phinny** from Huron Elementary, and **Leah LaCrosse** from Huron Middle School. Not present were two Sandusky school recipients **Danielle Wilhelmina** and **Kelli Ballah**.

For more information, please visit the Erie Co. chapter [website](#).



Pictured above: Erie Co. Grant recipients who were able to attend the June meeting.

GUERNSEY CO. GIVES BACK



2018 Guernsey Co. Scholarship Recipient
Alexandria McVicker

Guernsey Country Retired Teachers Association recently awarded their 2018 scholarship to **Alexandria McVicker**, daughter of Wendy and T.S. McVicker. The **\$1000** scholarship is funded through donations of retired teachers from Guernsey Country. Alexandria, a 2018 graduate of Buckeye Trail High School, will attend Ohio University to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education.

The scholarship is awarded to a Guernsey Country resident who is entering the field of education. It is based on recommendations, grade point average, class rank, activities, ACT test scores, and an essay of interest in teaching.

Way to go, Alexandria!

SCHOLARSHIPS IN SANDUSKY CO.

The Sandusky County Retired Teachers' Association recently selected its new 2018 **\$1,000** Educational Materials Grants recipients: **Mikayla Overmyer** and **Emily Wegert**.

Mikayla is the daughter of Melanie Overmyer. She graduated from Clyde High School and will be attending The University of Toledo to begin her career in Early Childhood Education.

Emily, a graduate of Woodmore High School, is the daughter of Matthew and JoAnn Wegert. She will obtain her Special Education degree from Bowling Green State University.

The grants for this year are awarded in memory of **Marlene Fisher, Vera Colvin, Ruth Gray, Lyle Smith, Dee Gabel, Elaine Roush** and **Eileen Miller** — all former members of SCORTA.

To learn more about the Sandusky Co. chapter, please visit their [website](#).



Pictured Above: Holly Wolpert, Mikayla Overmyer,
Emily Wegert and Ellen Beier

JOINING FRANKLIN CO. IN JUNE

A great time was had by all who attended the June **Franklin County Retired Teacher Association's** luncheon. The group was excited to present the FCRTA 2018 Scholarships to **Regina Scott** a teacher at Columbus Downtown High School, and **Jessica Burke** a teacher in the Groveport Madison School District. Attending the luncheon were representatives from ORTA, and STRS. They provided updates and current happenings from their respective organizations. The group concluded the luncheon with entertainment from the **Columbus Education Association (Retired) Notes**, and a 50/50 raffle benefiting **Honor Flight Columbus**. Are you a Franklin County Retired Teacher? Make plans to attend our September luncheon on **September 12th** at the Villa Milano – visit their website www.fcrrta.com for a luncheon reservation form and additional information.



2018 Scholarship Award Winner



ORTA Central Liaison Ken Moody



Columbus Education Association (Retired) Notes performs



STRS Rep. Kelly McChristy

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: NORTHEAST REGIONAL MEETING

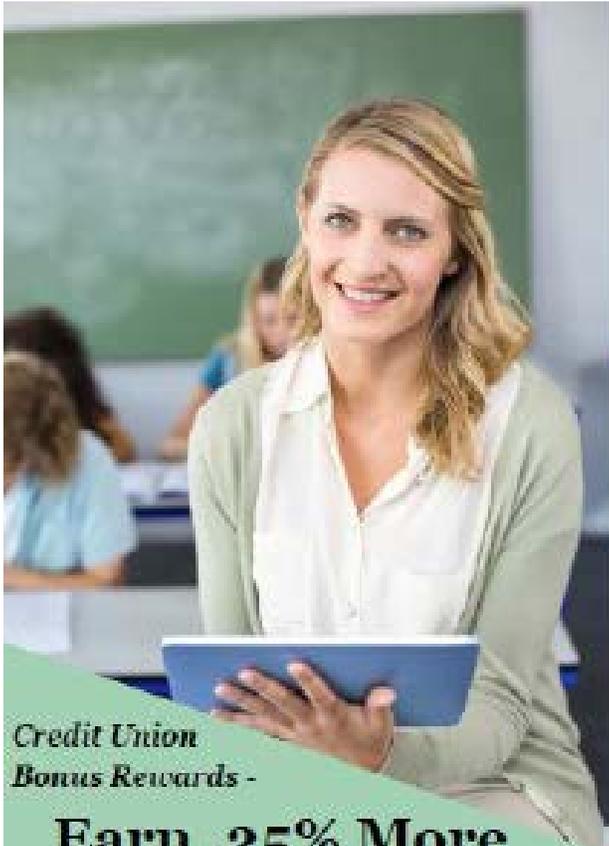
Northeast Regional Liaison Kendra Berger hosted a group of six of Northeast chapter Presidents from **Holmes, Tuscarawas, Carroll, Harrison, Wayne and Jefferson Counties**.

Joining the meeting was ORTA Executive Director **Dr. Robin Rayfield** and ORTA President **Bee Lehner** on Monday, June 11th at Dutch Valley Restaurant in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Chapters were updated on ORTA news, the latest on STRS and treated to a delicious Amish prepared breakfast. Chapters were also asked to prepare a chapter report to share how certain activities and programs were making their chapters successful from meeting to meeting.

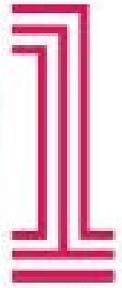
Thank you to Kendra Burger for her time and organization to plan this successful meeting, and, a special thank you to all of the chapter leaders for their time and travel to this meeting also!







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SCIOTO CO. SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The Scioto County Retired Teachers Association awarded two scholarships of **\$750** each to **Hannah Newman**, 2018 Wheelersburg High School graduate, and **Hannah Sexton**, 2018 East Community High School graduate.

Hannah Newman is the daughter of Dr. Robert E. Newman and the late Pamela K. Newman. She will be attending Morehead State University in Morehead, KY to study music education.

Hannah Sexton is the daughter of Jason Sexton and Misty Bentley. She will be attending Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, OH majoring in education.

Best wishes to these two future teachers!

To learn more about the Scioto Co. chapter, please visit their [website](#).



Pictured above: Bill Brown, SCRTA President; Hannah Newman, Bill Webb, SCRTA Scholarship Committee member. Hannah Sexton was not available when the picture was taken

SCHOLARSHIP REWARDS IN MERCER CO.



Pictured above:
Natalie Hrycko with her presented award

The 2018 Mercer County Retired Teachers Association scholarship was awarded to **Natalie Hrycko**. She is a Coldwater High School graduate who maintained a 3.8 GPA.

Her list of accomplishments and experiences working with children were very impressive. Natalie will be attending Bowling Green State University majoring in early childhood education.

Congratulations to Natalie!

To learn more about the Mercer Co. chapter, please visit their [website](#).

LOGAN CO. CHAPTER UPDATE

The **Logan County Retired Teachers Association** held its June meeting on June 21st, with over fifty attendees and entertainment from Savannah Sheeley during the meal.

AMBA representative **Larry Harrison** spoke to the group about benefits offered to ORTA members and he also raffled off a gift card for a lucky winner – congratulations to Pat Holt!

The six **Lucy Brown Grants** sponsored by President Emerson Brown, were presented to recipients in the amount of **\$250** each: **Beverly Rorrer, Alicia Pickering, Nicole Spencer, Gretchen Powell, Renee Price** and **Jennifer Walls**. In April of 2019, the students will present their projects to the group.

Scholarship chairwoman, Carol Davis also presented **\$1000** checks to two recent graduates; **Kayla Null** will be attending Capital University, and **Zoe Price** will be attending Ohio Wesleyan University. Congratulations to these winners, and good luck this fall!



Recipients of the \$1000 scholarship awards went to Kayla Null (pictured above, left) and Zoe Price (pictures above, right), presented by Carol Davis (pictured above, middle)



Connie Smith, speaking about her work with 4Paws for Ability.

And lastly, Connie Smith and other volunteers presented an informative program on the 4Paws for Ability. The volunteers “socialize” therapy dogs that are used with children, who in many cases, are autistic.

To learn more about the Logan Co. chapter, please visit their [Facebook](#) page.

The next meeting will be held on **August 23, 2018**.



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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ORTA DUES THIS YEAR?

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**

WHAT'S ORTA UP TO?

Take a look at what's coming up in August around our chapters and organization!
The calendar is always available on our website.

Follow the link to view: <http://www.orta.org/calendar.html>

**Would you like to have an ORTA representative speak at your chapter meeting?*

Call the ORTA office today to set up a date!



Wednesday, August 1	
12:00pm	Warren Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, August 2	
12:30pm	Shelby Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
4:00pm	Fayette County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Monday, August 6	
11:00am	Highland County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, August 8	
11:30am	Washington Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Muskingum County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, August 9	
12:00pm	Gallia Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Monday, August 13	
11:30am	Madison County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Tuesday, August 14	
11:00am	Champaign County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, August 15	
12:00pm	Licking County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Monday, August 20	
11:30am	Miami Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, August 22	
10:00am	ORTA Central Region Chapter Presidents Meeting
11:30am	Guernsey Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Luncheon Meeting
Thursday, August 23	
12:00pm	Logan Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Monday, August 27	
10:30am	Vinton Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assessment Administrator

Seeking motivated individuals to proctor in-school assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th- and 12th-grade students for the **National Assessment of Educational Progress**. Must be available to work January 28 –March 8, 2019. Paid training, paid time and mileage reimbursement for local driving, and weekly paychecks. This is a part-time, temporary position. For more information, visit <http://www.workNAEP.com> and provide your name and email.

We will contact you with a link to our online application when it is available.

Online applications will be accepted beginning in June 2018.

Please [click here](#) for additional job details. Questions? Email: NAEPrecruit@westat.com.

IN MEMORIAM:

ORTA would like to pay our respects to the following members who have recently passed on.

We are sending condolences to friends and family at this difficult time.

Josephine E. Wohn, 105, of Genoa, (**Ottawa Co.**) passed away Wednesday evening, June 27, 2018, at the Genoa Retirement Village. Josephine was born April 22, 1913, in Genoa, Ohio.

Members of Franklin Co.:

Muriel L Guiler
Daniel F. Nawrocki
Ruth E. Lang HM



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



OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

(PLEASE PRINT, TYPE OR USE PERSONAL NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL)

PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:
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8050 N. HIGH STREET | SUITE 190 | COLUMBUS, OHIO 43235

NAME (AS LISTED WITH STRS)		PHONE NUMBER	
MAILING ADDRESS		APT.	CITY
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!



OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEW MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

(PLEASE PRINT, TYPE OR USE PERSONAL NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL)

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OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSN.
8050 N. HIGH STREET | SUITE 190 | COLUMBUS, OHIO 43235

NAME (AS LISTED WITH STRS)		PHONE NUMBER	
MAILING ADDRESS		APT.	CITY
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 NEW MEMBER DUES \$40	
COUNTY/LOCAL		TOTAL	

THANK YOU!
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