

- Note from our Executive Director and Monthly STRS Update
- Richland Co. Grant Awards
- May Featured Liaisons
- Anniversary Announcement
- Road Scholar Partnership Announcements

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear ORTA Members,



2018 ORTA President, Bee Lehner

I just finished reading our small, but mighty, weekly hometown newspaper. It's an exciting time of year when our young people are being recognized for so many wonderful achievements and curricular activities! Earning "Elks Student of the Month" and awards from other Fraternal Clubs, capturing titles in various sporting events, performing music concerts, earning academic achievement awards, and being recognized for those outstanding "senior projects" which improve the quality of life in our communities. I also enjoyed perusing photos of children participating in the local fishing derby, the Elks Hoop Shoot, the Rotary Reads program and area youth from our local Youth Leadership. Wow! It makes one proud to say, "I was a teacher!" Oh! Happy "Teacher Appreciation Week!" Once a teacher, always a teacher!

Since our Spring Board meeting in April, I have received confirmation on two ORTA Regions who have chosen a date and place to hold their regional meetings. The Southeast Region has announced that they will meet with their chapter presidents on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the Best Western in Marietta, Ohio from 10 am-2 pm. Liaisons for the **Southeast Region** are Brenda Davis, Don Ullmann, and Karen Butt. The Central Region will be holding their regional meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2018 at the ORTA office in Columbus. Liaisons for the **Central Region** are Kara Mendenhall, Kenneth Moody, Kathy Russell, and Pat Bateman. They are very excited to share new ideas for increasing membership statewide and encouraging fresh leadership in the state chapters. I encourage the other regions to mark a date on the calendar and share it with the ORTA office as soon as possible. We know these meetings will bring a big boost to the morale of the chapters!

As you may have noticed in the above paragraph, we **DO** have a third liaison for the Southeast Region of Ohio! Karen Butt called and offered to take the liaison position for the Pike, Scioto, Jackson, Lawrence, Galia, and Meigs County area! She loves to travel and meet with various ORTA chapters, so this jumped out to her as a perfect opportunity! Thanks so much, Karen for your dedication!

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, the Board voted in favor of supporting the "membership incentive program," which encourages chapters to increase their membership by at least 10% a year. I had also mentioned that the ORTA office would check each chapter's membership status as of January, 1, 2018. INSTEAD, we are asking that your chapter treasurer or secretary calculate the highest number of "ORTA members" you had in 2017 and send that number to Mia at the ORTA office, (614-431-7002).

(con'd on next page)

She will keep that 2017 ORTA membership total and make a comparison at the end of 2018. If your chapter has met the "ORTA 10% INCREASE" challenge for 2018, your chapter will receive \$100 to go toward any program or project you may choose. The chapter gaining the highest percentage of membership in the state also receives a greater amount at the end of the year. Make it a great year and best wishes as you grow your membership!

Following the Spring Board meeting, I chose a chairperson for the 2018-2019 State Committees. The "chairs" of these committees are as follows:

- Legislative Committee, **Carol Kinsey, Ch.**
- Finance Committee, **Edna Hansen, Ch.**
- Membership & Pre-Retirement Committee, **Bruce Hodges, Ch.**
- PR/Technology/Communications Committee, **Michael Ward, Ch.**
- Protective/Community Services Committee, **Carole Wolfe, Ch.**
- Organizational (Bylaws/Nominating) Committee, **Kara Mendenhall, Ch.**

Finally, I love the quotes by Mark Twain, and since June brings a very BIG milestone birthday my way, here are a couple of my favorites.

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter"-**Mark Twain**

"I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it." -**Mark Twain**

Enjoy the Days of Spring!

Yours truly,
Bee Lehner, ORTA President

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**

THOUGHTS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Greetings ORTA Family!

I have been lucky to have been invited to so many wonderful chapters this spring. At least once and, often, twice throughout March and April I have been able to visit local RTAs. The food is always great, the people are even better. Hopefully I will be visiting your chapter soon.

STRS News

I was able to speak at the April 19, 2018 STRS Board of Trustees meeting. My comments included a reminder that COLA remains the hottest topic on the minds of STRS recipients. Rather than repeating a request for a return to COLA, my request was having STRS 'lay out a pathway for benefit enhancement'. So many people have asked the STRS Board of Trustees to 'give us back our COLA' that it appears the request falls on deaf ears. What I have requested is that the STRS folks offer a list of conditions that must take place prior to beneficiaries receiving more in their monthly checks. The STRS employees are adept at describing our current financial conditions and they monitor our financial position carefully. What ORTA would like to know is what metrics or measurements are being used to determine when the members of STRS can expect to see an increase. I did receive a call from Executive Director Nehf the following week and a commitment from him to work on developing such a pathway or road map to benefit enhancement. I am excited about the willingness by STRS Executives to help the STRS beneficiaries with understanding the complex nature of pension systems and potential increases in our monthly checks. At the same meeting about 65 STRS beneficiaries from Northeast Ohio attended. Two of their group spoke about the need to return to COLA, especially for the most vulnerable of our group. One comment that struck a resounding cord was that it is unacceptable for STRS to consider pay increases for STRS employees if the STRS recipients are 'frozen' on their monthly checks. I tend to agree.



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA
Executive Director

ORTA Liaisons

ORTA Liaisons are out visiting chapters in their regions. I have heard positive comments from several local chapters that the ORTA Liaison assigned to their chapter has contacted them and is visiting this spring.

Membership News

I have received a couple of calls from local chapters interested about the membership incentive program. We have a link to this program on the website under the membership tab. In short, ORTA will pay \$100 to each local chapter that increases its membership in ORTA by 10% during 2018. Several chapters have asked how this will be calculated. Here is what I can offer:

- Each Local Chapter will determine the membership of their local chapter during the 2017 year. Local Chapters must provide the total number of ORTA Members (both lifetime and annual members) to ORTA. If there are questions or discrepancies about this number, call us at ORTA to discuss. Your membership data will include all lifetime members and annual dues paying members that were registered in 2017.

- Your 2018 membership list will be calculated in the same way. ORTA will verify the 2018 numbers for any local chapter. Any chapter experiencing a 10% growth in ORTA membership will receive the incentive.

Chapter Officers List

We are still making changes to the local chapter officer list. Please check the ORTA web page to see if the information we have on your chapter is accurate and contact ORTA with any inaccuracies.

Best Regards,

Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director



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

70 YEARS (AND COUNTING!) IN BROWN COUNTY



Pictured Above: Doug Green State House Representative presenting a proclamation to the club officers

The **Brown Co.** chapter held it's **70th Anniversary** celebration in October of 2017, hosting James Frazier, Superintendent of the Brown County Educational Service Center as the keynote speaker along with Chris Burrows Superintendent of Georgetown Exempted village schools and also Raegan White of Western Brown. Brown Co. was one of the original ORTA chapters founded in 1947. We are looking forward to seeing what your 71st year holds! To learn more about the Brown Co. chapter, please visit their [website](#).

HAPPY 70TH ANNIVERSARY, ERIE CO.!



1948-2018

ORTA would like to take time to honor the 70th anniversary of the **Erie County** chapter. Throughout the year, we will be showcasing those chapters celebrating these milestones, and sharing history of the chapter. The Erie chapter anniversary date fell on **April 28th, 2018**.

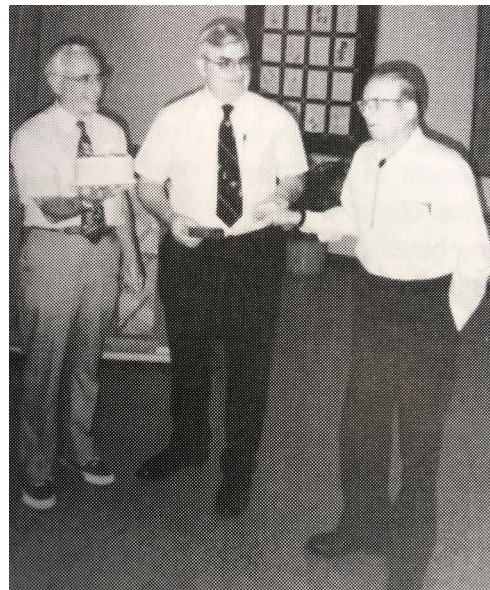
A brief history of the Erie County Retired Teachers Association formed when 15 teachers gathered to form and organize the chapter in the April of '48. Usually in homes of the members, meetings were sometimes held at the Follett House in Sandusky or occasionally at the Sandusky Business Women's Club. As time went on, all meetings were conducted at the Business Women's Club for a nominal fee of \$6.00 per meeting.

Up through the 1980s and into the 1990s the Erie County Chapter continued to prosper. Today, membership continues to grow steadily and the chapter now boasts a membership of more than 130 members. It continues a long tradition of legislative involvement.

From all of us at ORTA, cheers to 70 more years, Erie County! To learn more about the Erie Co. chapter, please visit their [website](#).



1995-96 Officers (left to right) Treasurer, Donna Sisson; 2nd VP, Judy Porterfield; Immediate Past President, Earl Hammond; 1st VP, Bill Kraus; President, Al Weingart and Legislative Chair, Larry Zimmer



Member Willis Gebhardt receives a cake in honor of his 100th Birthday; picture with both 1st VP, Bill Kraus; President, Al Weingart



Carole Wolfe

MAY FEATURED LIAISONS:

**CAROLE WOLFE (NORTHWEST) &
STELLA HULL (NORTHEAST)**

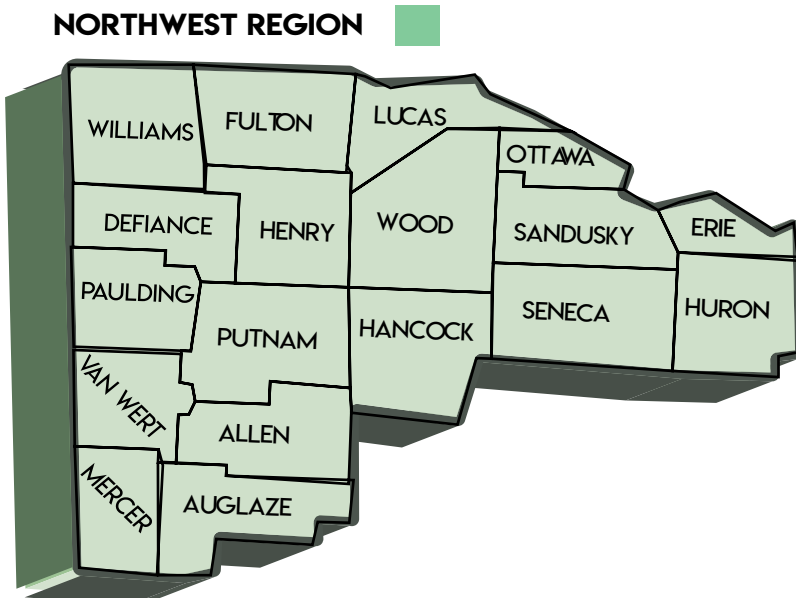
Carole Wolfe is from Williams County, in the Northwest Region. She received her BS degree in 1965 from Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana and her Masters from St. Francis College in Ft. Wayne Indiana in 1973.

In her career, Carole has been with LaSalle High School, Central Noble High School and Four County Career Center and has taught Physical Education, Typing, Shorthand, and General Business for her first 5 years, then as a Guidance Counselor for 32 years. During her career she also coached basketball, softball, and track and field.

Carole has been a chapter leader in Williams Co. for over 4 years, and was just elected again. When ORTA was still in the district set -up, she was District 1 Director for 4 years and has been on the ORTA Board for 4 years. Along with ORTA service,

Carole has served as a Board Member for the Four County Endowment and was on the committee 5 years ago that formed the Endowment. She also began the Wall of Fame for Four County Career Center and is still an active member on the committee as of 2016.

We are excited to have Carole on our Northwest Liaison team, and to have her leadership in that region!





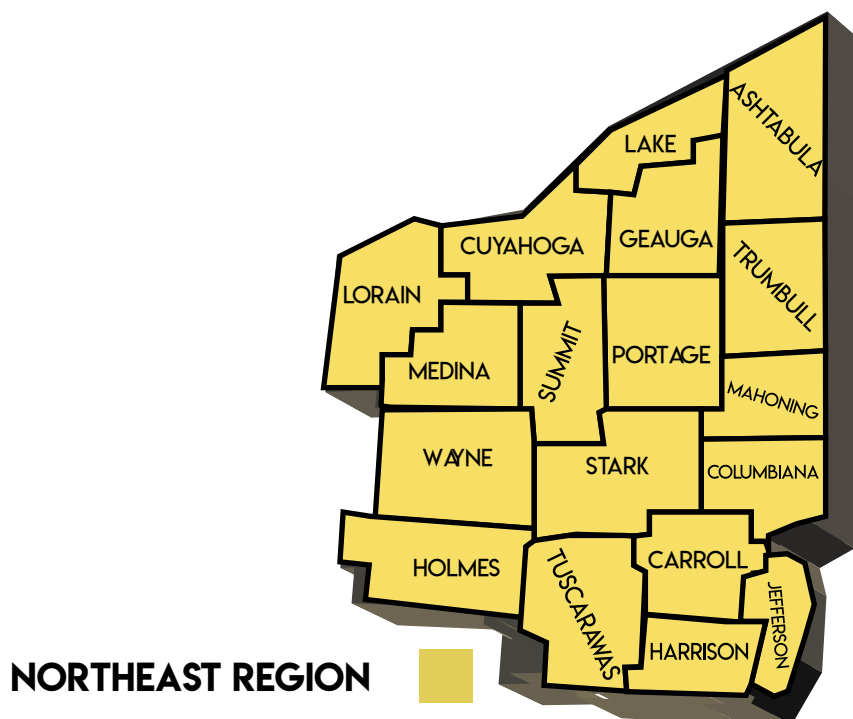
Stella Hull

Stella Hull, Northeast Region Liaison serving Cuyahoga, Greater Cleveland, Lorain, Medina, Summit, Ashtabula, and Lake counties. Stella previously served her local chapter as secretary, vice president, president, and past president. In addition she has been a district director for the now defunct District X and most recently the ORTA Liaison for her local chapter.

Stella is currently an adjunct professor at Cuyahoga Community College-Metro campus. She teaches Business and Information Technology classes. She has been there since 2008. She retired from Cleveland Heights High School in 2007. Her career started in 1974 teaching business education to students at Collinwood High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Stella has two children, a daughter and a son. Her son and his wife have two boys. Stella's grandchildren are the love of her life. She has been baby-sitting once a week for at least the last nine years.

Stella keeps busy serving in various capacities on several organizations. She is the Treasurer for OBTA-An Association for Business Technology Educators. She is also the Treasurer for the parent organization, North Central Business Education Association (NCBEA). Stella serves on the Awards Selection Committee for National Business Education (NBEA). Closer to home, she works as a Teller in the credit union for her church.

We are excited to have Stella help lead the Northeast Region, and being a part of the Liaison team!



RICHLAND CO. "GRANTS" CLASSROOM SUCCESS!

The Richland County Retired Teachers Association has started a new program to award teacher grants of up to \$200 to Richland County teachers for special projects not covered by other funding. On April 30th, three area teachers were awarded the first of these grants by Mary Thomas, Kathy Russell, and Lynda Kidd.

Margaret Strong received a grant to implement a computer coding program at the Mansfield STEM School for Kindergarten and 1st grade students.

Alana Sigg, Guidance Counselor at Madison Comprehensive High School, will use her grant towards a new incentive program to help improve attendance, grades, and good behavior.

Cassandra Hoagland, Clear Fork Valley Middle School teacher, will purchase interactive materials to promote greater understanding of the concepts taught in her social studies class.

All three women were pleased to receive these grants. The RCRTA will continue to award grants to Richland County teachers as money becomes available.

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



Mary Thomas, Kathy Russell, and Lynda Kidd award Margaret Strong of Mansfield STEM School



Mary Thomas, Kathy Russell, and Lynda Kidd award Alana Sigg of Madison Comprehensive High School



Mary Thomas, Kathy Russell, and Lynda Kidd award of Cassandra Hoagland of Clear Fork Valley Middle School



**Credit Union
Bonus Rewards -**

Earn .25% More

On Certificate Accounts

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.**

Federally Insured by NCUA.



education**first**
credit union



Ohio Retired Teachers Association

has **joined** with

Education First Credit Union

to ensure a strong membership that advocates for your benefits. You can

earn up to a lifetime ORTA membership with a qualifying certificate or loan product with some of the best rates in the state!

Get Started Today! When you call or visit be sure to let us know you are an ORTA member!

- Money Market Savings Accounts
- Certificates of Deposit
- Retirement & Investment Services
- New & Used Auto Loans (*refinancing is available*)
- Mortgages (*pre-qualifications are available*)
- Home Equity Loans & Lines of Credit
- Visa Credit Cards (*no balance transfer fee*)
- Free Credit Review

The Smart Choice In Banking.

www.educu.org • 614-221-9376

WHAT'S ORTA UP TO?



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

Monday, June 4	
12:00pm	Morrow County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Tuesday, June 5	
10:30am	Jefferson Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
11:00am	Knox Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
11:00am	Geauga Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Summit County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, June 6	
11:30am	Jackson County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Warren Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, June 7	
11:00am	Clark Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	ORTA Day with Fayette County Retired Teachers Assn.
12:00pm	Shelby Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Friday, June 8	
11:00am	Coshocton Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Delaware Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Monday, June 11	
11:30am	Madison County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Tuesday, June 12	
11:00am	Lake Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Grant Recipients and Scholarships
11:00am	Champaign County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Fairfield County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Medina County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Trumbull Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, June 13	
11:00am	Mahoning County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
11:30am	Washington Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Licking County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Franklin Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Muskingum County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, June 14	
	ORSC/HPA Meeting, Robin Rayfield Attending
12:00pm	Belmont County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Gallia Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Friday, June 15	
11:30am	Carroll Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Kendra Burger Attending
Monday, June 18	
6:00pm	Miami Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Scholarship Awards
Tuesday, June 19	
11:30am	Seneca Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Robin Rayfield Attending
Wednesday, June 20	
11:30am	Pickaway County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Thursday, June 21	
6:00pm	Logan Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, June 27	
11:30am	Guernsey Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Luncheon Meeting

LAUGH OF THE MONTH



Why science teachers
should not be given
playground duty.



**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!

A NEW WAY TO VOLUNTEER IN SENECA CO.

Are you local to Seneca Co. and are looking to help students in your area? Join **Leadership Seneca County** in lending a hand to students in need in Fostoria City Schools. Founded in 1996, Leadership Seneca County has helped hundreds of individuals expand their knowledge of Seneca County while refining their leadership skills. The mission statement of Leadership Seneca County is “educating and inspiring individuals to be dynamic leaders and contributors in the workplace and the community.” Every Leadership Seneca County class must collectively come up with a project that will directly impact Seneca County and its residents.



The Leadership Seneca County Class of 2018 is working on a program called “**Ready Redmen Will Excel.**” Many Seneca County residents do not realize that the Fostoria City School district has an **85%** poverty rate; the lowest in the county and surrounding areas. **77%** of those students reside in Seneca County, so there is a potential to impact a large number of Seneca County residents. Fostoria City Schools recently lost funding of an important grant that they rely on to assist students with basic living necessities. According to statistics from the 2015-2016 school year, almost 10% of the student body was identified as “doubled up” because of lack of resources. Fostoria City School Counselor Teresa Vogel stated to Leadership Seneca County that “Education isn’t a priority for these families; keeping the utilities on is. Meeting the basic necessities of these families will keep them coming to school, where we know they are safe, warm, and not alone.”

The goal of this collaborative effort between Leadership Seneca County and Fostoria City Schools is to raise funds in an effort to purchase basic necessities these families may not be able to purchase for school, such as campus wear, school supplies; even basic hygiene products that these kids may not have access to. “Ready Redmen Will Excel” will have three parts; school supply kits for classrooms, spare campus wear for students who need it, and basic care packages with after-school snacks and basic hygiene products. The plan is to purchase these supplies for the number of students living in poverty, so they are looking to buy for 1,244 students. Leadership Seneca County has a total budget of \$68,500 for this project. The group believes that spending up to \$55 per child will make the biggest impact. This number is a result of allocating \$15 for new uniforms, \$20 for school supplies, \$10 for back packs, and \$10 for personal hygiene products.

So far, Leadership Seneca County has received several donations to the program, most notably \$1,000 from Fostoria Pro Medica Hospital. Leadership Seneca will be holding several fund-raisers for this project, including ones at Chipotle and Burger King, and are holding one of their own at the Renaissance of Tiffin.

Once funding is met, the group will begin purchasing the products in April and May. Students will receive the benefits of “Ready Redmen Will Excel” at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year, which will be in August of 2018.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.gofundme.com/lsc-ready-redmen-will-excel> or <https://www.facebook.com/LeadershipSeneca/>

IN MEMORIAM:

It is with great sadness that ORTA reports the passing of **Mercer Co.** member, John Parker. John was an educator in the Fort Recovery School District for 42 years. He was employed as a teacher and bus driver.

Our condolences are with the family and loved ones at this difficult time.

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

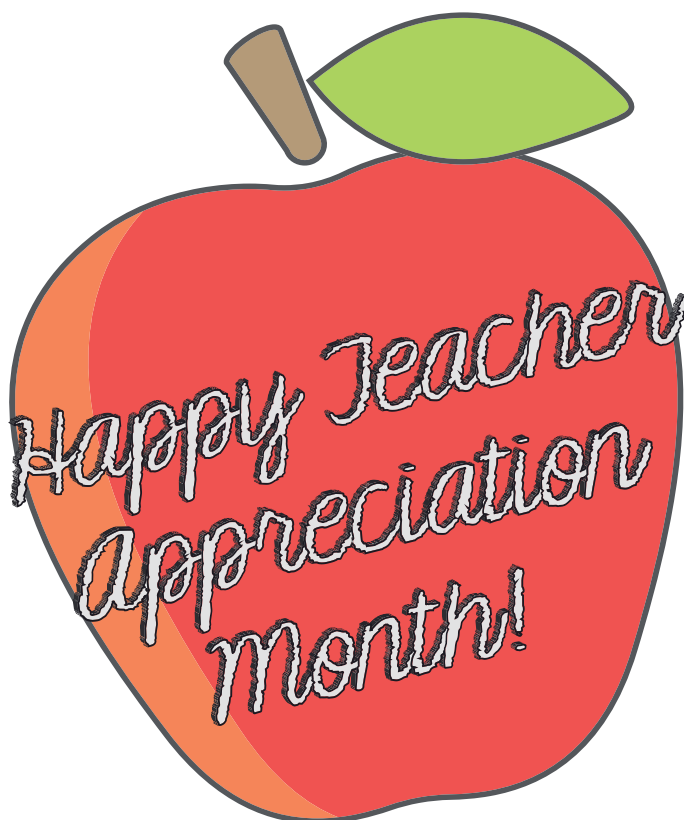
If so, please see our new page on our website ([click here](#)).

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

–Unknown



With Sympathy...





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

Please print, cut out,
complete and send
for your **yearly**
payment.

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!

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)

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO:
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!
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS
IMPORTANT TO US!