

- Note from our Executive Director and Monthly STRS Update
- Greene Co. Announcement
- ORTA Calendar
- Memorial Section

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2018 ORTA President, Bee Lehner

September Greetings, ORTA Members!

As the new school year gets underway, with all the mandates placed on staff, I wonder if teachers still have time to read to their students? As an intermediate teacher, I remember making it my goal to read a picture book, a chapter book, and a poem to my students each day. As a parent, I read to my sons each night before they went to bed. Now, when my grandkids come to stay over night, I try very hard to read to them before we all turn in for the night! Have you noticed how it's getting harder and harder to get away from those iPads and other electronic gadgets to squeeze in "story time?" I'm talking about us, as well as the kids!

I want to send out another "thank-you bouquet" to the liaisons of ORTA's Central Ohio Region; **Kara Mendenhall**, **Ken Moody**, **Kathy Russell**, and **Pat Bateman** (alternate). On August 22, these liaisons conducted their region's officers' meeting at the conference room at the ORTA building. The team gave their members time to gather information in the morning, then, allowed them to go into groups in the afternoon to share ideas and work out chapter concerns. It was a very successful meeting, thanks to the organizational skills of this liaison team! Bravo, Kara, Ken, Kathy and Pat!

On September 6, my good friend, Brenda Davis (South East Ohio liaison) and I headed down to Mount Orab, Ohio to hear the speaker, Sam Quinones, who has researched the "gravity of the drug epidemic in the Brown County area and the nation at large." The event was sponsored by the Brown County Educational Service Center, the Brown County Prosecutor's Office and Drug Task Force and by the Brown County Board of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Two of our South West liaisons, Becky Cropper and Evelyn Yockey, were there to assist with the event by directing guests and helping to sell the author's book, Dreamland. We estimated there were close to 300 people attending this educational event! Thank you, Becky and Evelyn, for assisting!

Just a reminder, our Fall Board Meeting will be held on **Monday, October 15, 2018** in the conference room at the ORTA building from 10 am to 2 pm.

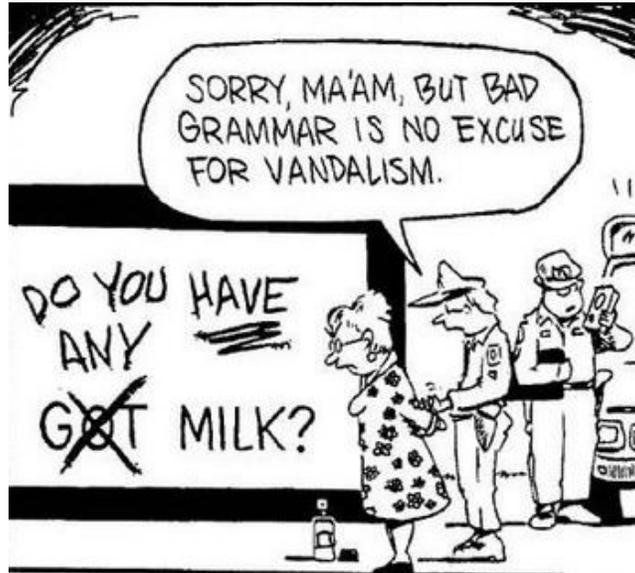
Enjoy the colors of September! See you in October!

Yours truly,
Bee Lehner, ORTA President

Thought for the Day: ***"In recalling their school years, students mostly remember their teachers, and not the courses they took."*** -Unknown

LAUGH OF THE MONTH

When you just can't resist doing the right thing...



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**PREPARE
FOR THE BEST**



FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings ORTA Members!

Membership Update

As the ORTA year enters its final quarter I would like to remind all Local Chapters that ORTA is offering an incentive for increasing membership to ORTA. Each Local RTA that increases its ORTA membership by 10% will receive a \$100 incentive check from ORTA. ORTA is happy to assist any Local Chapters in achieving this goal. Ways ORTA can help include:

- Provide a list of STRS recipients for your county
- Provide a list of current ORTA members

What is interesting is that many Local Chapters could easily reach their 10% growth goal by simply convincing members of their local chapter to join ORTA!

PEPTA Update

I have received calls and emails from ORTA members that contacted Senators Brown and Portman regarding PEPTA. Thank you all for the follow through! I am happy to report that the measure is NOT gaining co-sponsorship. For the current congressional session, it looks as though PEPTA has been sufficiently pushed back. We will carefully monitor the folks in Washington D.C., and keep ORTA members informed. As I have previously said, this attack on public pensions is introduced each congressional session so, we must remain vigilant.

Social Media Connections and Partners in our fight

For those of you that follow social media (Facebook for the most part) ORTA has been busy posting information on our Facebook page. Many have commented on the surveys that we have posted and on information that we have shared. ORTA has also worked with a group of folks that have a Facebook page 'Ohio STRS Members Only Forum'. This is a group of people (many are ORTA members) whose primary mission is the restoration of COLA for STRS beneficiaries. As the restoration of COLA is also a primary focus for ORTA, we are happy to share ideas with our brothers and sisters of the OMOFF. To that end we are drafting a letter that will be sent to all Ohio legislators providing them with information on the suspension of COLA by STRS and how this has negatively impacted approximately 300,00 active and retired educators in Ohio. As a reminder, there is a petition that you can review and sign (if you want) that addresses the COLA issue. You can find it at www.restoreourcola.com. I would also like to make mention of another group that advocates for STRS retirees. Although we are not formally partnered with OEAR (Ohio Education Association Retired), many ORTA members belong to both ORTA and OEAR. This group is also 'fighting for retirees' every day and working to represent STRS retirees.

STRS News and COLA

As I have mentioned in previous ORTA newsletters, ORTA is working diligently to address the loss of COLA for retirees.



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA
Executive Director

(con'd on next page)

ORTA members understand that the long-term stability and financial health of the STRS system is of the utmost importance to all educators, active and retired. We appreciate the fact that the STRS Board of Trustees acted on our behalf to introduce pension reform guaranteed STRS would be there for retirees for generations to come. As former educators we are familiar with the disappointment when we hear the old refrain ‘Sorry but we just can’t afford a raise for teachers at this time’. ORTA has focused its efforts on working with STRS to develop a Pathway to COLA. Our aim is to work with STRS to determine what must take place in order that the retirees could receive enhancements to their monthly benefits. ORTA has a commitment from STRS leaders that we will develop such a list of conditions that must be present to increase benefits. In addition, ORTA is contacting Ohio Legislators to inform them of the significance of the loss of COLA, especially for our older retirees.

Best Regards,
Dr. Robin Rayfield

WHAT’S ORTA UP TO?



Take a look at what’s coming up in October 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!

Monday, October 1	
12:00pm	Morrow County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
Tuesday, October 2	
11:00am	Knox Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
11:00am	Geauga Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, October 3	
11:00am	Tuscarawas Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Kendra Burger Attending
11:30am	Pickaway County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Warren Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, October 4	
12:00pm	Fayette County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Shelby Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Friday, October 5	
11:00am	Union Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Monday, October 8	
Columbus Day (regional holiday)	
11:30am	Madison County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Muskingum County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
5:30pm	Paulding Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, October 9	
11:00am	Champaign County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Medina County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Trumbull Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Hamilton Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, October 10	
11:30am	Washington Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Licking County Retired Teachers Assn. Meeting
12:00pm	Greater Cleveland/Cuyahoga Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting

Thursday, October 11	
11:30am	Holmes Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Gallia Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Friday, October 12	
11:30am	Montgomery Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Monday, October 15	
ORTA Statewide Board Meeting	
5:30pm	Hancock Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, October 17	
12:00pm	Lorain Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Thursday, October 18	
12:00pm	Columbiana Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Meigs County Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Friday, October 19	
11:30am	Carroll Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Kendra Burger Attending
12:00pm	Hardin Co. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Alliance Area Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Tuesday, October 23	
11:00am	Wayne Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting Kendra Burger Attending
11:30am	Wyandot Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Butler Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
12:00pm	Logan Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Meeting
Wednesday, October 24	
11:30am	Guernsey Co. Retired Teachers Assn. Chapter Luncheon Meeting

GOING BACK IN TIME IN GREENE CO.



Guest Speaker Gary Kersey

The Greene County Retired Teachers Association luncheon was held at Memorial Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, August 22 with **Gary Kersey**, a Civil War / Abraham Lincoln Scholar, as their featured speaker. Mr. Kersey is a lifelong Clinton County resident and a graduate Wilmington College.

He brought to life the Dakota War of 1862 where over 500 American Indians were brought to trial and 393 were sentenced to die for their actions against white settlers and government agents. Abraham Lincoln's plate was pretty full with the Civil War happenings but he took time to review each case and reduced the number sentenced to death to 38. All 38 were hanged at the same time on one massive gallows resulting in what is still the largest mass execution in this country. While 355 were granted clemency by Lincoln, it also stands as the greatest act of clemency.

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

PIKE CO. PICKS SCHOLORHSHIP WINNERS

The Pike County Retired Teachers Association has chosen the chapter's scholarship recipients.

Jade Russell and **Kylie Grace Tong** have each received a scholarship for \$500 to use in their achieving a degree in education.

Jade Russell was the 2018 class Valedictorian for Western High School, among other accomplishments in her time as a student. Russell is attending Shawnee State to major in Secondary Education with a degree in Chemistry.

Kylie Grace Tong, also of Western High School, was awarded a memorial scholarship of \$500 in memory of Mrs. Mary Col Bev-ens, who was a longtime member of PCRTA. Tong was a highly respected athlete, honor student and served as both class President and vice President among other roles within the student body. She is now majoring in Middle School education at the University of Rio Grande.

Congratulations to both of the winners and good luck in your educational future!



Scholarship recipient
Kylie Grace Tong,
Western High School



Scholarship recipient
Jade Russell
Western High School

NEW COLA RESOURCE FOR ORTA MEMBERS

Are you concerned about the latest updates on the COLA? Be sure to follow our website, where we have recently posted a new page, strictly concerning all moves with COLA. This page includes Executive Director statements at STRS, and what the position of COLA is within our system.

Please click this link to be directed to the [“COLA: ORTA’s Mission”](#) web page on our site.

HIGHLAND CO. HIGHLIGHTS



Pictured Left to Right: HCRTA Bob Hottle, Jana Holbrook , and Dave Stratton

The Highland County Retired Teachers Association met for their regular quarterly meeting in August at the Ponderosa Banquet Center in Hillsboro .

The meeting included a special guest speaker on the history of the Highland Co. Fair, **Dave Stratton**. Mr. Stratton serves as the Secretary of the Senior Fair Board. Along with Mr. Stratton, **Jana Holbrook** then updated everyone on then new rules and procedures that have occurred in recent years. Holbrook is the Junior Fair Coordinator.

The HCRTA meets four times a year, with a special educational program always on the agenda, followed by a business meeting. The next meeting is November 5th, with a guest speaker from STRS and a discussion on healthcare.

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

PROJECTS IN PICKAWAY CO.

Pickaway County Retired Teacher Association Members toured Mt. Oval House and the Clarke-May Museum in Pickaway County. Museum guide Tom Cooper showed the recently designed school room. Pictured are tour participants around a desk once used by local educator Caleb Atwater (for whom Circleville’s Atwater School was named).

The PCRTA annual picnic held August 15 was well attended. Members brought donations of school supplies for this year’s recipient Circleville City Schools. Education Chairman **Carol Bowling** presented the PCRTA 2018 Educational Grant to **Whitney Queen**, a junior at The Ohio State University studying special education with the goal of becoming a high school intervention specialist. Musical entertainment was provided by The Grammatones from Lancaster, Ohio.

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



PCRTA Museum visitors in a replicated old school classroom, along with a local piece of history



Carol Bowling alongside the latest recipient of PCRTA Educational Grant, Whitney Queen



Members volunteered with Circleville’s 2018 “Tools for Schools”

LEARNING IN LOGAN CO.



Guest Speaker Paul Benedetti, CEO of Logan Co. Chamber of Commerce talks to the group about Ohio's 33 Smart Mobility Corridor

The Logan County Retired Teachers Association held its August meeting in Bellefontaine at the Friendly Senior Center. Along with a meeting and guest speaker, there was also lunch provided. In addition, the center's "**Millennium Melodaires**" were lead by Allen Hadley for the days entertainment. Several of the chapters are part of the singing group.

The guest speaker for the program was **Paul Benedetti**, CEO of the Logan County Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Benedetti shared a power point presentation on Ohio's 33 Smart Mobility Corridor which is coming to our area. It was alarming to some, exciting to others. The information given was well received, and was something members have read and heard about.

President Emerson Brown held a short meeting for the group which included chapter business. The next meeting will be held on October 23rd, in West Liberty, Ohio.

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



President Emerson Brown gives a business meeting for the Logan Co. chapter



(Left): Allen Hadley directs the "Millennium Melodaires" for the groups entertainment

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 do 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 to keep us going, so we want to say thank you for your loyalty to ORTA, and we wouldn't be here without **YOU**.

***PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR RENEWAL DUES FORM BELOW TO SEND TO US WITH YOUR CHECK PAYMENT**

		<p align="center">OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM</p> <p align="center"><i>(PLEASE PRINT, TYPE OR USE PERSONAL NAME AND ADDRESS LABEL)</i></p> <p align="center">PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSN. 8050 N. HIGH STREET SUITE 190 COLUMBUS, OHIO 43235</p>	
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!

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE



Central Liaisons (left to right): Pat Bateman, Kara Mendenhall, Kathy Russell and Ken Moody

ORTA's Central Region held its first regional conference on August 22, at the ORTA offices in Columbus. The day was a great success, bringing in over 50 regional chapter members and leaders.

The day was planned with an agenda for different "break-out" sessions including membership discussions, President and Vice President growth and development, Treasurer and Secretary meetings, along with website and technology training.

The group also had guest speakers Alan Kearns from our benefits partner, AMBA and our financial partner Education First Credit Union's Angie Freeman. Alan Kearns shared new plans and development that makes AMBA even better for our members, and Angie Freeman discussed the overall banking and financial benefit Education First can provide ORTA members.

A very big THANK YOU goes to our Central Region Liaison team: **Kara Mendenhall, Ken Moody, Kathy Russell and Patricia Bateman.** Their dedication and time in preparing such a successful day for the Central Region really paid off, and our organization is truly grateful!



Kara Mendenhall, going through the days agenda



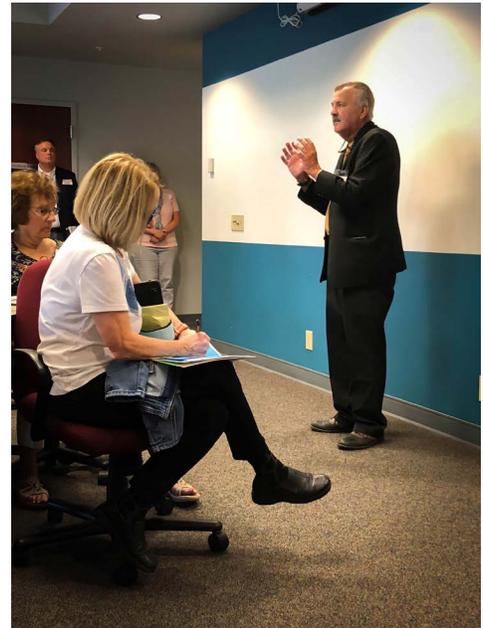
Chapter Web-masters learning more about website development



Kara Mendenhall, Pat Bateman and Ken Moody welcoming guests



Franklin Co. and Madison Co. chapter members Kathie Bracy and Stephanie Huddleston



Executive Director Robin Rayfield gives an ORTA and STRS update



Education First Credit Union Marketing Director Angie Freeman, talks about the great banking benefits for our members



Conference attendance was over 50!



ORTA Publications and Communications Coordinator Alissa Burton giving tips on web development and answering any questions about technology concerns with chapters.



AMBA's Regional VP, Alan Kearns, shares the many benefits of AMBA for ORTA members

GREENE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING SEMINAR

SPONSORED BY: Greene County Retired Teachers Association – Free

FOR: Active public school teachers and administrators within 2 years or less of retirement.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: Beaver Creek Church of the Nazarene
1850 N. Fairfield Road
Beaver Creek, Ohio

PRESENTERS: STRS - State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – Hope Short
AMBA – Association Member Benefits Advisors – Bonnie Norris
ORTA – Ohio Retired Teachers Association – Gale Adkins
GCRTA – Greene County Retired Teachers Association – Linda Beaver

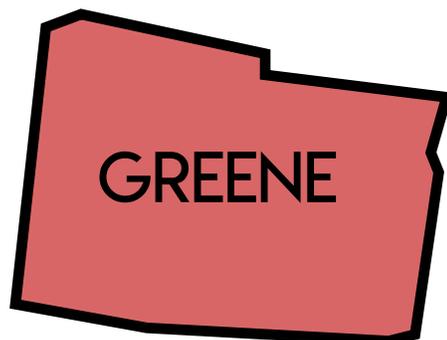
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- How to apply for benefits
- How your benefit is calculated and options available
- Legislative changes to system and how it may affect your retirement
- Healthcare benefits available to retirees
- How a membership in ORTA gives you access to many other benefits at discount prices through AMBA
- Benefits of being a member of the Greene County Retired Teachers Association

HOW TO REGISTER:

Send your name, phone number or email, and district by Monday, October 8th to:

Jim Beaver, GCRTA Pre-retirement Chairperson
Phone: 937-237-8657
Email: Jbeav36@aol.com



GATHERING TOGETHER IN GALLIA CO.

The Gallia County Retired Teachers met at noon on August 9, 2018 at Bob Evans Restaurant in Rio Grande, Ohio.

A general business meeting was conducted, along with recognition of new members and July/August birthdays both recognized.

Guest speakers included **Andrea Bussart and Jim Rosendahl** from AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors). Members were given a detailed account of their benefits through ORTA ranging from health, dental and vision care, home health and long-term care, Medicare supplements, air and ground ambulance service, tax deferred annuities, and travel benefits.



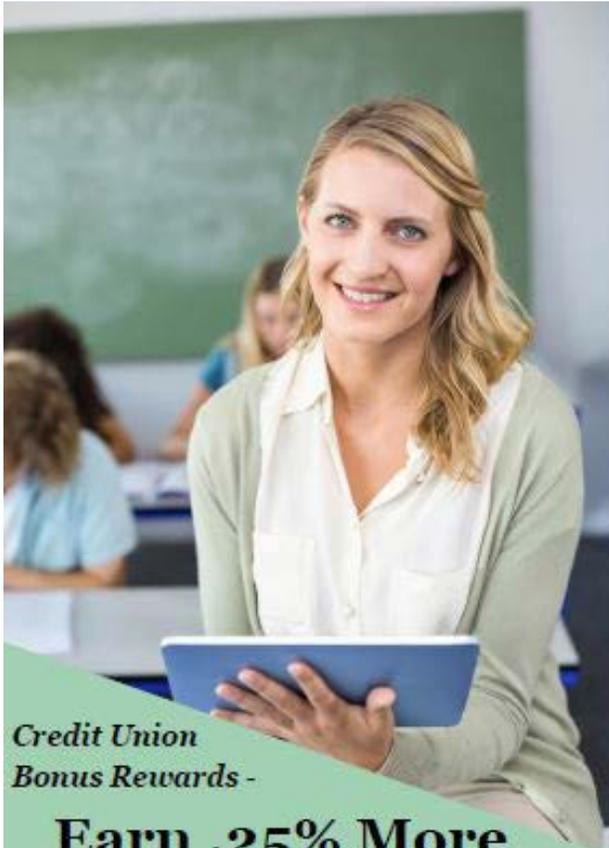
AMBA representative Andrea Bussart (left) and Gallia President Ollie Tipple (right)

Members were given the opportunity to meet with representatives following the meeting.

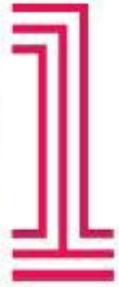
In addition to the business meeting, Karen Cornell informed members that Charlotte Miller had donated back to the association the Gallia County quilt she had won at a previous raffle. A motion was made by Donna DeWitt and seconded by Marlene Hoffman to form a committee to organize a raffle for the quilts with the proceeds going to the scholarship fund.

The next meeting will be held **October 11th** at the Bossard Library with GeGe Forgey catering the meal. The Pleasant Valley Bright Beginnings will be the presenter for the program.

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



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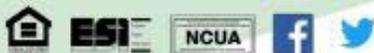
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Earn Up To \$250
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ORTA Members who open a new certificate of 36 months or greater, with new money can earn .25% more than the current stated rate. New money means funds not currently on deposit with 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.**

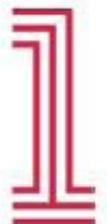
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IN MEMORIAM:

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.

Stark Co. (These are members who have passed away within the chapter since Jan. 2018 until current date)

Barbara A. Little
Jayne C. Hall
Rosemond J. Emery
Berdine Veigel
Catherine Brandau
Edythe Stellpflug
Caroline Hann
Betty Jane Shive
Myrta (Pollock)Gerren
Jeanne A. Shaw

Alice Plaskett
Joan Younger-Barriffe
Evelyn Elosise Belloni
Marjorie (Ault) Shank/Jossi

Trumbull Co.

Katherine B. Sefcik
Diana Plecker
Anthony B. Maiorana
Carl D. Macali
Leona H. Baran

Lake Co.

Bonnie Wyar
Agnes Harper

Auglaze Co.

Sally J. Meckstroth

****Deceased Member submission Policy update:
If you submit member(s) passing, please forward any obituary or funeral arrangements for our records.***

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



**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!

