Dear Valued ORTA Members,

As ORTA members, we consider you family. We want to extend extra care in considering that the Coronavirus (aka COVID-19) is a present danger at this time, and we want all of our members, families and friends to practice safe and healthy habits. If you are ill, or easily prone to becoming ill, please stay indoors or home from social gatherings and events. Some of our chapters have cancelled or rescheduled luncheons and meetings this month due to the outbreak. If you are one of these chapters, please contact our office and we will assist in making your members aware of any changes to your schedule.

We are making all possible efforts to reschedule any and all public ORTA functions, such as our Spring Board Meeting, planned for April 8th.

As the state of things is changing nearly hourly, we are keeping our staff in line with necessary actions (such as possible business lockdowns, etc.). If our hours or business functions change we will communicate any new details via our website, Facebook and e-mail outlets.

Again, we encourage our members to take all needed actions seriously, especially those with compromised immunity and conditions. We also encourage a “chapter check-in”— such as our chapter leaders reaching out and staying in touch with members at this time, and seeing if there are any folks who may need an extra hand in getting additional groceries, prescriptions or prepared meals.

Thank you for your patronage to ORTA, and we look forward to advocating for you fully once again when we are back to our normal operations.

Best Regards,

Alissa A. Burton, ORTA Communications and Publications
publications@orta.org
FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Spring Greetings to you all!

As we transition into the greener parts of the year, we are reminded that it is a time of renewal. The holidays we celebrate in March, April and even May are based on greenery (St. Patrick’s Day); rebirth (Easter); and celebrating fertility and rebirth (May Day). The celebrations show our need for reminders that we have made it through the “dormant” period of the year. Even if the winter has been mild, like this one, the start of spring and the awakening of living things has a special excitement associated with it. The sounds of birds communicating with each other has a cheering effect that no other music can imitate.

Many local chapters are gearing up for their first county meetings of the year. The central ORTA office is placing the regional meetings on the calendar and looking forward to seeing those of you who are planning, and those hoping to attend them. We look forward to hearing what has worked in your local chapters regarding increased membership, and hearing how we can help you achieve those goals.

To that end, I went to speak with the treasurer of the school district from which I retired to ask about the possibility of including an offer of the first year of ORTA free, to new retirees. The treasurer seemed very open to this idea and gave feedback about the need for information about ORTA that could accompany the offer. If this could become a standard piece of the retirement packet in districts throughout Ohio, we could reach 3000+ people in public schools. Fewer teachers in public schools reduces the contributions to the STRS pension system. This legislation would have on STRS and our pension system. Fewer students in public schools means fewer teachers in public schools. Fewer teachers in public schools means fewer teachers in public schools. Fewer teachers in public schools means fewer teachers in public schools. Fewer teachers in public schools means fewer teachers in public schools.

My parents were married on March 21, the traditional beginning of spring. I always liked the imagery associated with beginning a relationship at a time when the earth is awakening once again. It has an earthly potential members each year. That is a very exciting prospect to me! It not only acquaints retirees with ORTA as an organization, it also allows a taste of the benefits available to them should they choose to remain members. We are working on a pamphlet and letter to be sent to all district treasurers explaining the offer.

May the Luck o’ the Irish be with you!

Kara Mendenhall
2020 ORTA President
**TIME TO RENEW?**

Need to renew your dues? Just fill out this form and send in your payment to:
250 East Wilson Bridge Road
Ste. 150
c/o Mia McLean, Membership
Worthington, OH 43085

**Thank you!**

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**TIME TO EXPAND YOUR COVERAGE.**

As your life changes, consider some of these benefits and discounts from ORTA & AMBA:
- Dental & Vision Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Home Health Care
- MASA (Air & Ground Ambulance Plan)
- Cancer, Heart & Stroke Policy
- Medicare Supplement Policy
- Easy Issue Life Policy
- Tax Deferred Annuity
- Hearing Benefits
- Discounts on Travel, Dining & more

Learn more: 1-877-556-4582
myambabenefits.info/ora

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**Remember, the date we process your payment is your new due date for the following year (i.e. 03/20/20, new due date is 03/20/21). If you pay your ORTA dues to your local chapter, your payment is applied upon receipt to our office.**
In Memoriam

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

“When our time on Earth has been complete,
Our spirit moves on, more mysteries to seek.
Celebrate what this person meant to you,
Cherish the memories when this life you review.”

—B.J. Woodruff

Portage Co.
(Some members may not have had recognition at time of passing)-

2019
Leona Ann Livezey,
ORTA and Portage Co. Member
(December 28, 2019)
Richard Lewis
ORTA and Portage Co. Member
(December 9, 2019)
Mary Rinier
ORTA and Portage Co. Member
(December 22, 2019)

Sandusky Co.

2019
Charles “Chuck” Lenhart
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(April 30, 2019)
Sandra Kruse
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(May 31, 2019)
Mariellen Golembioski
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(June 1, 2019)
Faye Rawson
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(July 13, 2019)
Mary Trusdle
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(November 25th, 2019)
Brenda Oplet
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(December 23, 2019)
Asa “Ace” R. Sabiers
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(December 31, 2019)

2020
Barbara Husdon
ORTA and Sandusky Co. Member
(January 2, 2020)