

- STRS Update from Executive Director
- Remembering Gale Adkins
- Catching Up with Our Chapters
- ORTA honors Chuck Flint
- The Cleveland Cavs host Educator Appreciation Night

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2019-2020 ORTA President,
Kara Mendenhall

Hello ORTA Members!

As we approach the end of this year, I hope that you have found it to be a positive one. I may be a new name and face to you in this space. That would be true for all ORTA newsletter readers. I recently took over the duties of president of the organization by default. The state ORTA staff and I are working to move forward together. We appreciate all the help and support of those who have reached out to the state organization in the last few weeks.

The state ORTA family has been greatly impacted by the loss, in November, of our president and colleague, **Gale Adkins**. A contingent of ORTA representatives attended Gale's calling hours and funeral last month. The number of friends and family attending both was a tribute to Gale's positive impact upon his local and statewide community. The funeral service demonstrated the genuine love

folks felt for Gale, to which those of us who were fortunate enough to work with him, can attest. As the president-elect, the by-laws call for the transfer of duties of the president to the president-elect for the remainder of the president's term. Therefore, I hope to be able to fulfill Gale's goals and learn quickly about the responsibilities of this position.

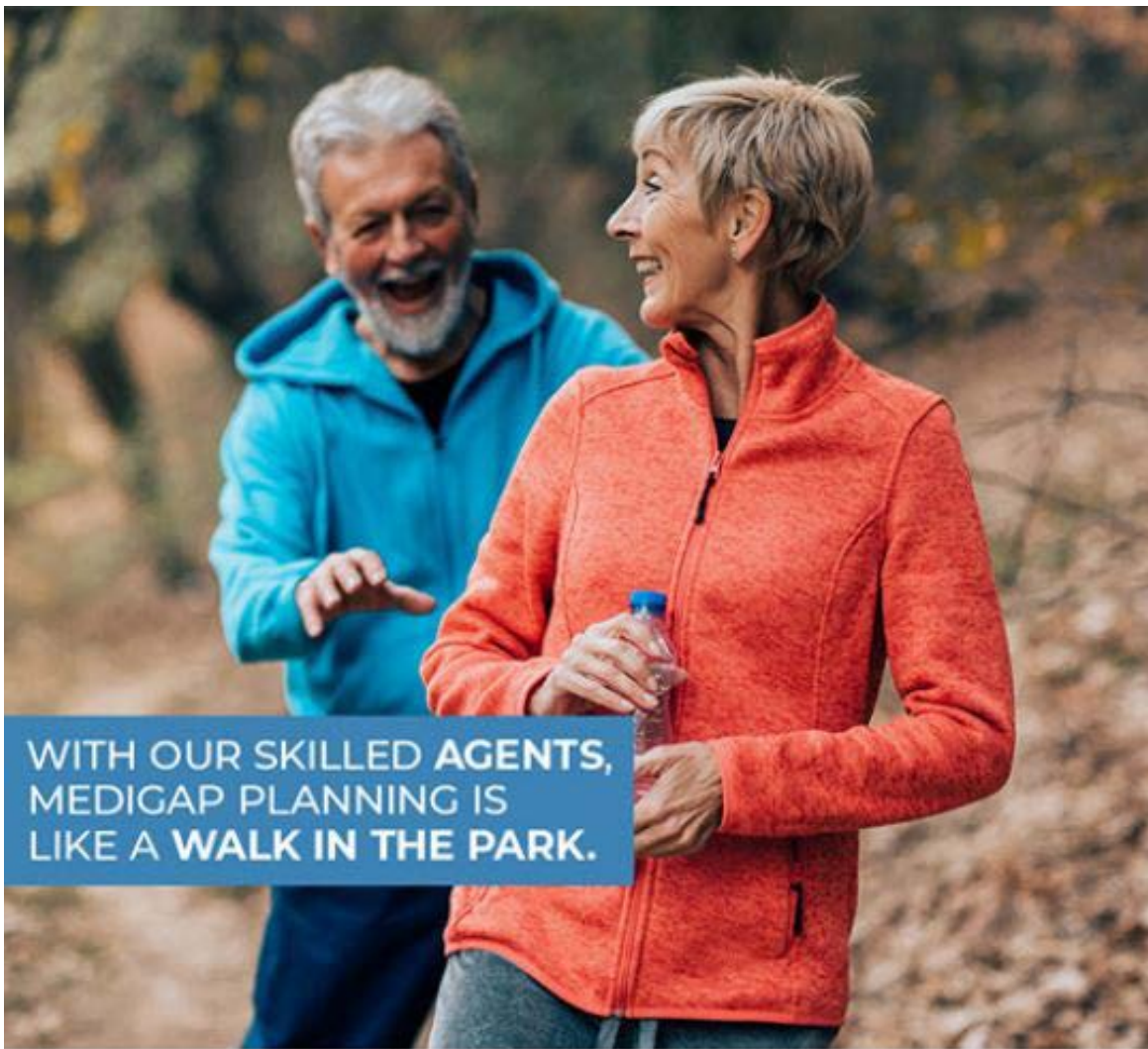
As the holiday season begins (it feels early this year) it is my hope that our activities include time to just be thankful for those around us. Sometimes the mad dash to the holiday overwhelms our sense of enjoyment of the occasion at hand. In the midst of the cleaning, shopping, baking, wrapping and rushing to and from events, take a moment to look around at those folks who are spending their most precious resource on you, their time, and let them know you appreciate that. There are many retirees who aren't able to get out to events. If you are a friend of someone like this, maybe an hour or so spent with that person could be your gift to them this season. Offering a ride to an event or meeting they would like to attend would also be a gift of time that could be appreciated by someone unable to get there themselves.

I look forward to the new year with great anticipation and hope. We are a strong organization and one which has the ability to make a difference in our state. I hope to be a positive part of that movement. I hope you are willing to be a part of it too.

At this time of year we recognize and celebrate our humanity. It is with a humble heart that I wish each of you a happy, healthy holiday season. Blessings to all, wherever you are!

Sincerely,

Kara Mendenhall, 2019-2020 ORTA President



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****Remember, the date we process your payment is your new due date for the following year (i.e. 12//9/19, new due date is 12/9/20). if you pay your ORTA dues to your local chapter, your payment is applied upon receipt to our office.**

Thank you!



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA
Executive Director

Gale C. Adkins Passes

Last month ORTA lost a great friend and leader with the passing of ORTA President **Gale Adkins**. In my two years working at ORTA I learned to trust Gale's advice and depend upon his steady leadership. He will be sorely missed by our organization and his friends and family. As the Holiday Season is upon us take time to let your loved ones know how much they mean to you!

STRS News

Let me begin with making a correction to my last ORTA Newsletter piece. I incorrectly identified a group of retirees that attended the STRS meeting as being affiliated with **OEA-R**. This group was, in fact, representing **OFT-R**. Dan McDonald's **OFT-R** group from greater Cleveland are solid supporters of the battle to restore COLA. Certainly, no offense was intended, and the mistake was 100% on my part. I apologize for my mistake.

In other news the STRS Board of Trustees met for their annual 'Board Education and Planning Meeting' on November 21, 2019. At this meeting the STRS Board works with a facilitator in an informal setting. A review of their policies and procedures, a self-assessment of board operations, and a review of the strategic goals are among some of the topics covered. Board members are encouraged to offer ideas and perspectives on the workings of the board. No public participation was scheduled for this meeting. The STRS Board will meet again on December 19, 2019. As ORTA's executive director, I attempt to provide a voice for the retirees that have been left behind with the current loss of COLA. On several occasions I have voiced our concerns that living in retirement without any sign of what we were promised is becoming increasingly more frustrating. One area that would help to better fund the retirement system is increasing the employer contribution rate. The employer contribution is the money that each employer of the STRS system pays into the system on behalf of the individual employees. The employer contribution rate is currently 14% and has been for several decades. ORTA is convinced that an increase in the amount employers contribute is essential. If you recall STRS increased the rate individuals pay by 40%. This was accomplished by increasing the amount each person contributes by 1% each year for 4 consecutive years. Unfortunately, this increase in contributions was not enough to bring the STRS system into financial stability. So, the STRS board reduced, then suspended the cost of living increases for retirees. Still, the system was faced with unfunded liabilities that were concerning to the STRS board of trustees.

To be clear, the suspension of COLA coupled with the 40% increase in the active teacher contribution rate greatly strengthened the STRS financial outlook. Certainly, not paying out what is owed and increasing collections would help to stabilize any business. ORTA has suggested that the STRS increase the employer contribution rate in a similar fashion as the active teacher contribution rate. Increasing this rate over several years will strengthen the system in the same way that increasing the active teacher contribution rate strengthened the system.

ORTA New Offices

As a reminder, ORTA moved its offices to **250 E, Wilson Bridge Rd. Suite 150 Worthington, OH. 43085** on August 12. Our phone number remains the same **614-431-7002**.

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Robin Rayfield. ORTA Executive Director

A “WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS” IN COLUMBIANA

original content submitted by: Colleen Sfakis

“Before the Christmas holidays, we all feel stressed and are busy, but what if we had to start our preparations in the preceding April. That is what the White House staff must do in order to be ready for what has become the traditional White House Christmas. The Columbiana County Retired Teachers learned this and other amazing facts when **Janet Creighton**, who worked for one year (2008-09) in the White House during the administration of **George W. Bush**, enlightened them about her year as Deputy Assistant.

Mrs. Creighton used a power point presentation of the public rooms and described the decorations for each room. The Bush family chose red, white, and blue as their patriotic theme.

Five full time florists and other volunteer florists from across the country worked diligently to carry out this theme in the Red, Green, Blue and Yellow rooms. Live pine and poinsettias were displayed and refreshed as needed during the busy season which included 21 receptions and parties for 60,000 guests in three weeks. The gingerbread house included 350 pounds of sugar, 1,600 egg whites, 200 pounds of flour and 225 pounds of candy decorations.

Mrs. Creighton described having her picture taken with the Bushes in front of the Christmas tree in the Blue Room with just a few seconds before the shot and no retakes. The picture she shared is a perfect image of a memorable year. White House Historical Society ornaments added to the picture perfect presentation.”

The Columbiana County Retired Teachers meet the third Thursday of the months of September, October, November, December, April, and May at noon in the Lisbon First United Methodist Church.

*This presentation was also given at the **Trumbull Co. Retired Teachers Association** Meeting



Pictured with the holiday portrait of the President and First Lady, Janet Creighton

BELMONT CO. GIVES BACK



Pictured with the donation delivery are Rose Durant, Eileen Haught and Vicki Jo Smith

The November meeting of the **Belmont County Retired Teachers Association**, the Community Service Committee collected comfort items for male and female veterans who are in local nursing homes and retirement centers. Some of the items that members donated were quilts, socks, ball caps, puzzle books, playing cards, jigsaw puzzles, pajamas, and t-shirts. Pictured from the left is **Rose Durant**, who delivered the items; **Eileen Haught**, Chairman; and **Vicki Jo Smith**, President

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

EVENTS IN ERIE CO.

The October meeting of the **Erie County Retired Teachers** was held at the Huron Presbyterian Church. The chapter would like to welcome any retired teachers from the area to join their membership. The group meets every other month for lunch, updates, and informative presentations. This month they hosted two presenters: the chapter's own **Chris Zess** informed the group of how the 2020 census will be distributed and why it is important for all to take part in this important program, Mr. **Dan Orzano**, Ohio Dept. of Commerce, presented "Avoiding Scams". He distributed materials and discussed what type of scams are occurring and what resources are available for Ohio citizens to use.



Erie Co. member Chris Zess talks about the 2020 Census



Dan Orzano from ODC presents on how to avoid scams

A HOLIDAY IN PICKAWAY

Thirty-five **Pickaway County Retired Teachers** members enjoyed fellowship, food and music at their December 11 meeting. Following the performance of the **Logan Elm H.S. Symphonic Choir** the members held a silent auction fund-raiser. Proceeds from the auction benefit PCRTA's Educational Grant and chapter expenses. PCRTA currently has 134 members. All Pickaway County retired teachers are invited to join the chapter.

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



A PCRTA holiday celebration with food and song!

NOVEMBER WITH MAHONING CO.

Mahoning Retired Teachers met for their November meeting by honoring Veterans, celebrating new scholarship award winners and the election of new chapter officers. Over 109 members attended, and listened to **Traci Hostetler** from Mahoning County Education Service Center talk about current trends in education. **Dr Robin Rayfield** of ORTA was also in attendance and spoke about state business and STRS updates.

June Logan conducted the nomination and election of officers. The two year term of officers are President, **Phil Butto**; 1st VP, **Susan Harris**; 2nd VP, **Ruth Frankenburg**; Secretary, **Barb Ade**; and Treasurer, **Debra Mette**. The current community service project is collecting monetary donations for the Salvation Army.

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



Honoring our Veterans with Mike Kubitz and Matthew Lewis presented colors, and Debbie Haverstock MRTA's web master, played taps



Dr. Robin Rayfield with President Susan Harris



President Susan Harris and Hospitality Chairperson Maggie Skrip welcomed 109 to the meeting



President Susan Harris with Mahoning County Educational Service Center Director of Operations Jack Zocolo, along with guest speaker Traci Hostetler from MCESC and Program Chairperson Phil Butto



Youngstown State University \$2000 scholarship winners Isabel Stoeber and Lindsey Soltis are pictured with Scholarship Chairperson Sonia Tsvetkoff

GALLIA CO. TALKS FLORAL FASHION

The Gallia County Retired Teachers met on Oct. 10, 2019 at noon at the Gallipolis Quality Inn. President **Gail Belville** called the meeting to order. **Henry Dillon** gave the invocation prior to a delicious meal being served by the staff of the Quality Inn.

Featured speaker, **Melvin Biars** of **Floral Fashions** in Gallipolis, was introduced by Lois Carter. Melvin spoke to the group about the changes affecting the floral business. For example, many flower shops are dropping their wire service while others are increasing fees for wire service and delivery. Wholesalers are closing their doors which presents a challenge for local floral retailers. Customers still do order fresh flowers but many prefer more user-friendly items. These include: candles, lanterns, wind chimes, room fresheners, quilts, and throw blankets. Metal sign stakes are another alternative and are becoming popular. Melvin had several examples to show the group. With the new millennium and changes in technology the flower business has had to change. Floral Fashions has a new web page. It is floralfashions.net.

Mr. Biars assured the group that Floral Fashions puts its service to customers first and foremost, taking pride in their customer service.

As Melvin spoke to the group, he stopped periodically to give away a door prize. Prizes included such items as wind chimes both large and miniature, candles both big and small, a throw blanket, room fragrance, and metal sign stakes. All door prize items were examples of what can be and are available for purchase at Floral Fashions. Lucky winners were: **Mel Coen, Sheryl Fallon, Pat Dillon, Marlene Hoffman, Bob & Vickie Powell, Nancy Hood, Ruth Snyder, Janet Wetherholt, Lynn Arnott, Dallie Forgey, Gail Belville, Robin Lane, Cheryl DeWitt, Henry Dillon, Beth James, Richard Unroe, Vicki Rose, Karen Polcyn, Donna DeWitt, Peggy Huber, Lorna Nomina, and Jack James.**

The following positions are in need of being filled within the GCRTA: treasurer at the beginning of the new term and publicity as soon as possible. There may also be a vacancy soon in the position of secretary.

The minutes from the August 2019 meeting were in the last issue of the newsletter and were approved by the membership. Jack James gave the treasurers report and it was also approved as presented. President Belville reminded members to record their volunteer hours for 2019 for church, community, education, hospital, or other areas. Hours can be given to Gail Belville at the Dec. 5th meeting. The total hours can be mailed to Gail prior to Dec. 15 at 6950 SR 7 in Gallipolis, OH or emailed or text to her. The calculation of these hours is needed for our end-of-the-year report for the state RTA. A Get-Well card will be sent to Patty Young. Sympathy cards have been sent to the family of Betty Finney and the Graham family.

(con'd on next page)



Pictured above is Melvin Biars of Floral Fashions in Gallipolis holding a fleur-de-lis throw blanket which is available for purchase in his store and was later given to Sheryl Fallon as a door prize.

(con'd from last page)



Melvin Biars of Floral Fashions with GC RTA member Marlene Hoffman

Several from the GCRTA attended a regional meeting in Jackson. President Belville noted that we are fortunate to have the scholarship fund and can be commended to be proactively replenishing it. The importance of purchasing travel insurance especially when traveling especially outside of the US was discussed.

Birthdays recognized for September were: **Cheryl DeWitt, Peggy Huber and Janet Wetherholt. Celebrating October birthdays were: Cindy Wilson, Nancy Hood, Julie Dragoo, and Donna DeWitt.**

It was discussed about the cost the organization is incurring when members make a reservation and then do not show up for the meeting in order to pay for their meal. It has always been the rule that if a member makes a reservation and does not show up for any reason that they are still required to pay for their meal. When a reservation is made the organization is committed to purchasing that meal so when the member does

not show then GCRTA is forced to pay for the meal. A motion was made and seconded to send out a note to those who do not show up at the meeting after making a reservation reminding them to reimburse the GCRTA for the cost of the meal. Marlene Hoffman volunteered to send these notes when necessary. A motion was made, seconded and approved to purchase stamps for this purpose.

President Belville informed the group that **WOUB** will be at the Bossard Library on Oct. 18 from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.

Producer **Evan Shaw** is looking for historical documentation (old family photos, old photos of Gallia County/Gallipolis, old home movies, etc.) that citizens might have and be willing to share that will help to tell the story of Gallipolis. Items will be digitally scanned and returned to the owner. Items may be included in a historical documentary of our town which will premier in March 2020. Questions: Contact **Cheri Russo** at russo@woub.org.

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



Melvin Biars of Floral Fashions in Gallipolis

ORTA NOMINATES NEW PRESIDENT ELECT

ORTA welcomes Chris DeMarco to our Executive Board!



Chris DeMarco, ORTA President Elect

“I am looking forward to being a part of the ORTA leadership team and privileged to be able to assist in their mission of advocacy, service, and friendship. A little bit about me:

I was born in Zanesville, OH, in 1954 and grew up in Cambridge, Ohio and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1972. I started college at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA and graduated from Kent State University in 1977, with a Bachelor of Music Degree, after student teaching in Cuyahoga Falls. I then Received a Master of Music Education Degree from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), in Denton, TX, in 1980. Following that, I began teaching career in Rootstown Local Schools, in Portage County, teaching instrumental and vocal music at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels.

In 1984 I married my wife Lisa Sommers DeMarco, of Ravenna, currently a music teacher in the Akron Springfield Local Schools, and looking forward to retirement in November, 2020. We have two adult daughters, Sarah and Melissa. Sarah graduated from the Berklee College of Music with a degree in Music Business and Management and currently works in the music industry in Nashville, TN. Melissa graduated in Jazz Vocal Performance, from the University of North Texas, and is an agent for the Abrams Artists Agency in Beverly Hills, CA. I am owned by a one year-old Yorkiepoo, named Lucy.

Also in 1984, I joined the instrumental music staff of Cuyahoga Falls City Schools, in Summit County. During my tenure at Cuyahoga Falls, 1984-2013, I taught at the high school, middle school, and elementary levels. Assignments included directing the Black Tiger Marching Band, CFHS Symphonic Band, Gold Tones Jazz Orchestra, CFHS Orchestra and academic music courses in music theory, arranging, jazz improvisation, and jazz history, and middle school and beginning bands and orchestras.

During that time I studied in Educational Administration at the University of Akron, 1986-87, and in 1988-1991, while at the University of Akron School of Law, I was awarded the Juris Doctor Degree, 1991 and admitted to the Ohio Bar in May, 1992. I served as Treasurer for the Ohio Chapter of the International Association for Jazz Education, 2000-2008, and as Mid-West Coordinator. And in 2003, I was Adjunct Faculty, at Youngstown State University, Jazz Methods. I also served as OMEA Solo & Ensemble Adjudicated Events Adjudicator.

As a member of the **Portage County Retired Teachers Association**, I served as Vice President and currently in first term as President.

Currently active as a professional trumpet player and attorney. I enjoy travel, cooking, model railroading, the history of World War II, and all things musical. I’m dedicated to becoming a better musician, each day, than I was the day before. “

Best Regards,
Chris DeMarco, ORTA 2020-2021-President Elect



OUR RESIDENTS NEVER RETIRE FROM LEARNING.

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DISCOVER MORE ABOUT RETIREMENT AT BRISTOL VILLAGE

Visit www.BristolVillage.org or call 1-844-769-6113





2019-20

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS Group Night

It's Ohio Educators Appreciation Night with the
Cleveland Cavaliers!

Saturday January 4th
Cleveland Cavaliers

vs.

Oklahoma City Thunder @ 8:00PM

Ticket information:

Educators and their family members will receive a BOGO offer through link: <https://groupmatics.events/event/Ohioeducation>

Evening Details:

All tickets purchased through this link or purchased in bulk from Dana Drewniak with the Cavaliers will include a Free Cavaliers T shirt!

Everyone will also be entered in a raffle to High Five NBA players on the court!



Looking to purchase 10 or more seats ? Contact **Dana Drewniak** with the Cavaliers at 216-420-2630 or email ddrewniak@cavs.com

All tickets will be delivered via Flash Seats. Flash Seats is the primary method of delivery for seating to Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse events.

METHOD OF DELIVERY: ALL SEATS WILL BE DELIVERED VIA FLASH SEATS*

- Instructions on Flash Seats will be sent out to the email address provided upon completion of the group's ticket order.
- Tickets will be ordered on to the group leader's Flash Seats account and then transferred to you individually when all orders are collected.
- Additional details on the game date will also be provided at that time.

**All orders are subject to availability. No ticket required for children under the age of two. This offer and discounts are not available at arena box office. No refunds or exchanges.*

Questions? Contact Dana Drewniak with the Cavaliers at 216-420-2630, or email ddrewniak@cavs.com



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LUCAS COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AWARDS FOUR \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

On Thursday, October 24th, the **Lucas County Retired Teachers'** Association awarded four \$1,000 scholarships to the following students:

Shayla Kazmierczak, a senior at the University of Toledo majoring in Early Childhood Education carrying a 3.739 GPA received the Pi Lambda Theta Claudia Trombla Scholarship. This scholarship was named after one of the long-time LCRTA Board members Claudia Trombla, who served as the Scholarship Chair for many years.

Brittany Abraham, a student at the University of Toledo, maintaining a 3.96 GPA received the Educational Leadership Association Scholarship. This is a new scholarship, which has been added to the LCRTA list of scholarships. Brittany is also an Early Childhood major.

Kayla Gauthier, a junior at Lourdes University, with a 3.8 GPA majoring in Middle Level Education, received a scholarship sponsored by the LCRTA.

Amaya Cummins, is currently a sophomore at the University of Toledo maintaining a 3.96 GPA majoring in Early Childhood Education received a scholarship sponsored by the LCRTA.

Criteria for the scholarships include: the student must be a Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in an Educator Program, have financial need have letters of recommendation, and complete a short essay. Students must attend a college or university in Lucas County.

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



Pictured left to right: Brittany Abraham, Kayla Gauthier, Amaya Cummins, Shayla Kazmierczak

A TRIBUTE TO ORTA'S PASSED LEADER

2019 President Gale C. Adkins

December 31st, 1950-November 11th, 2019



Gale and his wife Janet Adkins



Gale with Greene Co. member and past ORTA President, Linda Beaver and ORTA Executive Director, Dr. Robin Rayfield



Gale was always sharing the message of ORTA, and he was happy to learn how to make the organization serve it's members better.



2019-2020 President, Gale C. Adkins

The entire ORTA family mourns the sudden loss of our **2019-2020 President, Gale C. Adkins.**

Gale not only leaves behind his wife **Janet Adkins** and three children, among numerous grandchildren, but a true legacy with our organization.

Along with nearly fifteen years of service to the **Greene Co. Retired Teachers Association**, and several years with the ORTA Executive board, Gale had many other posts held on local boards and clubs, making him a natural leader.

Gale leaves us with missing his personality, his sense of humor and his renowned golf skills. But most of all, we're missing that sense of leadership that can be hard to find. We are so lucky to have had his guidance for the time we did, and we are thankful that we have an organization with people who are willing to pick up where he left off.

The Ohio Retired Teachers Association will continue to remember him by living the message he always shared with our members and that was and is ***Advocacy through Action, Serving our Communities and Growing Membership with Friendship.***

Thank you, Gale!



The Board and ORTA staff celebrated a birthday with Gale!



ORTA Office Manager Evleyn Massey and Gale during a board meeting

PCRTA PRESENTS FOUR \$2,000 SCHOLARSHIPS

Members of the **Portage County Retired Teachers Association** recently honored their 2019 scholarship winners. Starting in 1994, twenty-five years ago, PCRTA gave one student a scholarship for \$100. This has continued to grow throughout the years with four students each receiving a **\$2,000 scholarship** this year. At the present time, **\$107,300** have been awarded to a total of 128 Portage County students. Funding for these scholarships is a result of contributions from members, donations in memory of departed educators, and significant income from the Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown where PRTA members provide proctoring services.

The PCRTA Scholarship Committee this year consisted of **Jan Fencel, Darlene Fetterhoff, Dave Gynn, Ria Mastromatteo, Jim Montaquila, Ron Snowberger** and **Kay Wise**. PCRTA members had the opportunity to get to know the scholarship winners as the students participated in a program called ***"The American Dream"*** led by Scholarship Chairperson **Jim Motaquila**.

Kelsie Flick is a recent graduate of Streetsboro High School. She will be attending Ohio University this fall as she begins her studies to becoming an educator.

Corinne Henderson will be attending Miami University this coming school year. A graduate of Aurora High Eager to begin Kent State this fall.

Cory Hautman, a graduate of Streetsboro High School, will begin his studies in Music Education. Cory received the Nancy and **Ken Bliss Scholarship**.

Lauren Shanley, a graduate of Theodore Roosevelt High School in Kent, received the Portage County Teachers Memorial Scholarship. She is planning a career in Early Childhood Education and will be attending Kent State University this fall.

The Portage County Retired Teachers Association is dedicated to helping students pursue their future as an educator.

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

ORTA REMEMBERS A CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Chuck Flint, Tuscarawas
RTA President

Chuck Flint, of New Philadelphia and current **Tuscarawas County Retired Teachers Association President** passed away on October 24, 2019. In his early adult life, Chuck attended and obtained a Bachelor Degree in Education and Agricultural Business from THE Ohio State University. He later furthered his education by obtaining his Masters in Administration from Ashland University. Wanting to follow in his father's footsteps, Chuck began his teaching career in Vocational Agricultural Education at Carrollton High School, where he taught for two years prior to joining the teaching staff at Buckeye Career Center. He taught for an additional 15 years in Buckeye's agricultural program and retired from Buckeye Career Center as a Supervisor after 35 years in the education field. His leadership and spirit for ORTA and the Tuscarawas RTA will be greatly missed.

IT'S ELECTION SEASON!

Board of Elections Job Opportunities Announcement

Join the excitement of being part of the Presidential Election Year!

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has a wide variety of job openings with no experience required and we offer work for people of all skill levels. While great computer skills are certainly appreciated, they are absolutely **NOT** required!

****Bilingual applicants are also in demand.***

Get a firsthand look at election administration and democracy in action while earning extra money. As you might imagine, the Board is hiring Poll Workers for Election Day only work.

But there's more!

We are also hiring for longer-term assignments such as assisting nursing home voters, processing absentee ballots - opening and counting them, telephone operators, data entry and performing many other tasks. Although the 2020 Primary Election is not until March, several assignments will be starting as soon as January, just in time to help with those holiday bills.

Workers will be placed in positions that are a good fit with their skills and schedule. The Board is taking applications now. You can't be hired until you apply! You may apply by calling **216-443-6600** or online at www.443VOTE.us.



MOMENTS IN MORROW CO.

Members of the **Morrow County Retired Teachers Associations** were entertained by **Highland High School's Symphonic Choir** when they met for their Christmas luncheon, December 2, at Trinity UM Church. The twelve member choir, directed and accompanied by **Corey Strinka**, presented selections of seasonal music. A former president, **Linda Ruehrmund**, conducted the meeting. It was reported that six members had prepared 175 books for Christmas distribution. Seven applications had been received for the MCRTA Teacher Grants for special classroom projects. **Pat Rinehart** announced a Retirement Seminar has been scheduled for March 17, 4:30 pm, in the community room at Mt. Gilead High School.

During the Remembrance Ceremony, reflections were given by **Mariliyn Weiler** on her friendship and the life of Highland teacher, **Lois Keaton**, who passed May 1, 2019; and **Phylis Miller** told of **Tom Wagner's** varied career which included VoAg instructor and WMRN radio broadcaster. Tom passed July 6, 2018. Housebound members were remembered with Christmas cards. Community service hours were tabulated by **Shelia Beck**. The afternoon concluded with an auction of homemade goodies led by **Bonnie Hildebrand**. The proceeds benefited the Teacher Grant Fund.

The next luncheon will be held April 6, at Trinity UM Church. A speaker from ORTA will share news with the group.



The Highland High School Symphonic Chior and director Corey Strinka

IN MEMORIAM

Mercer Co.-Dr. Emerita Schulte,
ORTA and Mercer Co. Life Member

Stark Co.-Gene F. Feucht,
Life ORTA & Stark Co. Member
(October, 18 2019)

Trumbull Co.- Gretchen Reed,
ORTA & Trumbull Co. Member
(November 5, 2019)
Martha L. Gougler, ORTA & Trumbull Co. Member
(October 26, 2019)

Wood Co.- Thomas E. St. Meyers,
ORTA & WCRTA Member (November 10, 2019)
Helen Ruth Clay, ORTA & WCRTA Member
(March 14th, 2019)
Peter Henry Wood, ORTA & WCRTA Member
(November 20, 2019)

***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

