



KEEPING ORTA MEMBERS APPRISED OF HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

4|20

IN THIS EDITION:

- Message from our President
- Update from Executive Director
- ORTA Obituaries

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



2020 ORTA President,
Kara Mendenhall

Greetings to all ORTA members!

Since I usually write these messages from home, there is nothing new about that. What is different this month is that all of us are expected to stay home unless we have an essential reason to be out. What a strange time! I think I was in shock for about a week when this state order began. I just didn't know how to react nor did I have the ambition to do all the jobs around my house waiting for me to have a block of time like this to do them!

Many retirees spend a great deal of time at home, alone or with a spouse on a regular basis, so staying home during the COVID19 crisis is not much of a change in how they live. It is a change for many of us that we are not able to be in contact with others at our regular volunteer activities or part-time employment. Even being able to have lunch with a friend has changed. There are no restaurants open in which to share a meal, or even a cup of coffee. Another aspect of this social restriction is the isolation of those who have become ill, or who are confined to nursing or healthcare facilities.

Even life passages such as death and funerals are now not able to be shared with those who love or loved the affected person, but only those who are hired to care for them. If anything has come to light with our forced separation, it is the need for social interaction inherent in nearly everything we do. I began volunteering for Meal on Wheels in Fairfield County when I learned there were many folks who were not able to deliver meals because of the danger of their personal health conditions putting them at risk for the virus. The folks on my route are not only interested in the meals being delivered, but the personal contact that is part of that delivery. I venture to say the delivery is nearly as important as the meal itself, as many live alone.

So where do we look for a lift during this time of solitude? I have found joy in the songs of the birds, in the peach blossoms on our trees, in the daffodils and hyacinth blooming along the roadways. I get a kick out of sending an unexpected note to a friend, or calling someone I haven't seen for a while--just to check in. It also gives me a boost to take a walk and see kids jumping on a trampoline, or playing on a swing set. We may not be able to get close to others, but it helps to see that they are still there, trying to stay safe, just like us.

As spring continues to bloom, I urge you all to keep up hope that this isolation has been worthwhile, and to be vigilant in your distancing so that we can all emerge soon from this quarantine. When that happens, and our ORTA gatherings resume, we hope to see you all again!

Take care! Be safe! Be well!

Kara Mendenhall, ORTA 2020 President



Dr. Robin Rayfield, ORTA
Executive Director

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello ORTA Members!

COVID 19

As we have all been in 'lockdown' to prevent the spread of the pandemic virus facing the U.S., I trust that all ORTA members are doing what they can do to limit the spread of the virus. At ORTA, we are working from home, answering the phone and doing the best that we can. With so many local chapter meetings cancelled, I am looking forward to when we can all meet face to face again. My plans are to get out to as many local chapter meetings as possible, once this crisis has passed. Please contact the ORA office with any chapter meetings that you would like for ORTA to attend. Our Executive Committee has also expressed interest in visiting local chapters. I am optimistic that this crisis will pass. Until that time know that

ORTA remains engaged in advocacy on your behalf!

STRS News

STRS has not met recently. I am waiting to hear if the May meeting will be held and whether I will be allowed to attend. If the meeting takes place, and if I am allowed to attend, I will report on the status of our retirement system. As you are aware, the markets have suffered as a result of the pandemic, so I suspect our funding ration has, likewise, suffered. I will attempt to collect information on the health of our pension system and report to all ORTA members as soon as the information is available.

I have received messages related to 'bonus' payments to employees of STRS. I have reached out to SRTS leadership for an explanation or comment on this matter. I do not want to comment on this until I have facts; other than to say it seems inappropriate for employees to receive performance incentives when things are as portrayed in the news media. Again, when I know more, factual information I will share.

Looking Ahead

Although I did not experience the depression era, or the difficult times during World War II, I am learning an appreciation for the strength and resilience of the American people. We have endured more than a month of 'social distancing' and isolation. It has been difficult, but, for the most part, manageable. I have made it a habit to reach out by phone to friends and family each day to check on those folks that are vulnerable. I am happy to report that everyone I have contacted is holding up well. I hope all of you are also well. Ready to be out of this mess, but well!

I look forward to the time that local chapters can meet and fellowship face to face again. In the meantime, please let me know what ORTA can do for your chapter!

Stay well!

Best Regards,
Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director

ORTA QUARANTINE WORD FIND

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NURSES
 DISINFECTANT
 DONATE
 HEALING
 HOME
 PANDEMIC
 ZOOM
 SHELTER
 QUARANTINE
 FACETIME
 TELECOMMUTE
 NEIGHBORS
 STIMULUS
 ECONOMY
 DISTANCE
 DOCTORS
 VIRTUAL
 SOCIAL

CHAPTER MEETING CANCELLATIONS

These chapters have opted to cancel meetings for the month of May:

Greene Co.
 Pickaway Co.
 Portage Co.
 Stark Co.
 Wood Co.

****Please let our staff know of any changes being made to your chapters schedules, and we will do our best to get the notice to your members***



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- MASA (Air and Ground Ambulance Plan)
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OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



TIME TO RENEW?

Full Name: _____

Current Address: _____
Street/Apt./Suite #

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$30 Annual Renewal Enclosed

Current E-Mail: _____

Year of Retirement: _____

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**



****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.**

Thank you!



We are in this together.
We are here for you.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has placed us all in unprecedented and turbulent times. This reality is an entirely new experience for us and the uncertainty as to when it will be over is impossible to guess. While we can't be sure about many things, we can be very sure of one thing. You won't find another financial institution more determined than us to help you save money and improve your financial position. If this is an area of concern for you, please reach out to us. We may be able to restructure your existing debt to improve your cash flow, or assist you with a borrowing or investing need. You don't have to take on more debt to save money on what you already have. We invite you to see for yourself.

Nothing is more important to us than serving your financial best interests, and we hope you get through this time with little to no effect on your wallet. Depending on your situation, your work and pay may not be impacted at all. Some people may not be as lucky, and they will have to manage working fewer hours, or maybe being furloughed with reduced pay, or even no pay. If you find yourself worrying and stressing about your financial obligations, by all means, turn to us first.

We have unique ways to help you during this challenging time and we invite you to call or visit us to review your specific needs.

Education First Credit Union is the credit union for the education community in the state of Ohio. Since 1936 we have provided products and services that our members won't find anywhere else. Including the guidance they need to effectively manage their finances.

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- *Member-owned, Not for profit*
- *Comprehensive Financial Services*
- *Financial Guidance*

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance. You can visit us online at www.educu.org, or you may call our Service Center Team at 614-221- 9376 or toll-free at 866-628-6446. We are committed to providing quality service, care, and attention to our members. **Be sure to mention you are with ORTA!**

We believe that our member's financial best interests come first...always.

IN MEMORIAM

Pickaway Co.

Jane Marietta (Sanborn) Shank, March 23, 2020, PCRTA Treasurer/Member and ORTA Member

Stark Co.

Beverly J. Cain, April 16, 2020 SCRTA and ORTA Member

Summit Co.

Thalia Jean Bedell Jones, March 26, 2020 SCRTA and ORTA Member

Trumbull Co.

Betty Jane Hess Jensen, March 31, 2020 TRTA and ORTA Member

Ramona Jean Perkovich, Nov. 24, 2019 TRTA and ORTA Member

***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

