

# FCRTA

Published 4 Times a Year

Franklin County  
Retired Teachers  
Association

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Columbus, Ohio

September/October 2007

**FCRTA September** meeting will be in conjunction with ORTA's 60th Anniversary Celebration on September 26, at the Ohio Village. Registration deadline is August 31, 2007. For further information, call ORTA (614-431-7002) or visit ORTA's website ([www.ORTA.org](http://www.ORTA.org)).

**Congratulations to FCRTA** on being selected as a 2007 National NRTA "With Our Youth" Award recipient!

**Speaker for the October 10th Meeting of FCRTA will be Tom Ash,** Director of Governmental Relations for BASA (Buckeye Association of School Administrators.) He will provide the latest information on the proposed constitutional amendment on school funding and an update on legislation of interest to retired educators.

Since August 2005, Tom has represented school district leaders throughout Ohio before the General Assembly and various state agencies and organizations, including ORTA.

Prior to his BASA appointment, Tom completed 35 years in public education with 21 of those as superintendent in two school districts. A graduate of Bowling Green and Youngstown State Universities, he served as president of BASA in 1999-2000 and is editor of The Management Guide for School Administrators, an annual reference publication for superintendents and central office administrators.

Plan now to attend this luncheon meeting on October 10 at Berwick Manor, 3250 Refugee Road, to learn why a constitutional change in school funding is recommended and how proposed legislation might affect your retirement benefits, especially health care.

## Luncheons and Board Meetings:

### **Oct. 10**

Berwick Manor  
3250 Refugee Rd.

### **Dec. 12**

Berwick Manor  
3250 Refugee Rd.

### Executive Board Meetings

will meet at 10:30 a.m. on these dates.  
Lunch is at 12 noon.

**Check our website** <http://www.geocities.com/fcртаoh> to see the

Newsletter in color and for a link to ORTA and information about the Sept. 26th Anniversary Celebration.

## **October LUNCHEON RESERVATION**

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Year retired \_\_\_\_\_

Last school \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: Oct. 3, 2007**

**Cost per person: \$15.00**

**Make checks payable to FCRTA and send to:  
Mildred Becker**

**311 East Walnut Street  
Westerville, OH 43081-2339**

**Cost per person: \$15.00**



Guests at the June FCRTA Luncheon are: L-R, Diane Higgenbotham, The Columbus Foundation; Renee Polsley, first FCRTA Scholarship recipient; Karen Butt, ORTA District 6 Director; and Lindsey Seavert, WBNS-TV guest speaker.

## President's Message

Thank you to everyone who participated in our clothing donation May 9th. We had a tremendous response.

House Bill 119 Passes -The Homestead Exemption Bill. It allows homeowners 65 years of age or older to exempt \$25,000 of the market value of their home from property tax. You must submit your application to the appropriate county auditor by October 1, 2007. Franklin County information will be available September 26th at the Ohio Village.

Any FCRTA member interested in being on the Board of Trustees - mail your name and phone number to Tom Beck, 105 S. Remington Rd., Col's. OH 43209. Deadline: Sept. 21, 2007. Membership is everyone's business - please help!

*Tom Beck, President FCRTA*



At the June Luncheon, the First FCRTA Memorial Scholarship Award was presented. Shown are: L-R Beverly Fatig, Chairman Scholarship Committee, Renee Polsley, French Run Elementary teacher, first Scholarship recipient, and Tom Beck, FCRTA President.

### TO: RECENTLY RETIRED TEACHERS

You are receiving this Newsletter to acquaint you with the Franklin County Retired Teachers Association (FCRTA), the local chapter of Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA). We have local chapters in all counties so that information can be more readily disseminated to retired teachers in the area. It facilitates our contacting each other, our legislators, or State Teachers Retirement System when important issues need to be addressed. We can no longer be complacent and assume that our retirement benefits are safe.

In addition, now that you are retired, you have time to think about keeping in touch with former teaching friends, making new friends, and taking an active part in the guardianship of our retirement funds that are intended to see you through all your years ahead.

Franklin County RTA is an active chapter with a dynamic Board of Directors. All are vitally interested in legislation, health benefits, our pensions, and keeping up with anything that pertains to teacher retirement – yet are still concerned with educational trends of today. We produce at least four Newsletters per year and meet at least six times a year. Excellent speakers on topics that are relevant always highlight the meetings. We always come away enthused and exhilarated about our chapter, its members and its activities.

*Gloria Woods, Membership*



### *Aladdin Dixieland Band*

Members of the Dixieland Band who performed at the June FCRTA meeting are: L to R, Dave Haney, Jim Esswein, retired from Columbus Wedgewood Middle School, Tom Dale, retired from Columbus North High School, Joe Colburn Sr., Don Curl, 91 years old. (His engineering firm has solved the lighting problem with the arches on High Street. Don marched in the 1st Script Ohio in the OSU Marching Band), and Don Weiser.

## INFO HIGHLIGHTS

### Tips for Lifestyle Changes



Nothing works without Determination, Persistence, and a Positive Attitude. I WILL do it! I CAN do it! HURRAH, I did it!! ONE DAY AT A TIME

**FOOD PORTION** is the key!

Knowing the size of one food serving is very important. FOOD LABELS always list what the portion size is. Here are some examples of one serving size: 1 slice of bread, 1/2 - 2/3 cup of cereal, 1/2 cup of fruit juice or 1 small apple/pear/orange or one 4 inch banana, 8 oz. milk, 1/2 - 2/3 cup starchy vegetables. Pasta. Wow, I was amazed at the portion size. About 3 inches wide, 3 inches long, 1 and 1/2 inches high. 1 cup of Cream Soups (made with water), crackers to go with the soup. 5-6 crackers.

For Protein/Meat/Cheese the portion is 3 oz. Meat should equal the size of a deck of cards. Cheeses depend upon the size of the slice, so use a small scale. (I know, I didn't want to mess with weighing/measuring my food, either! But once I did I could visualize the amount, especially when eating out.)

Along with Food Portion is an understanding of **TOTAL CARBOHYDRATES**, not just the sugar. Carbohydrate servings are determined by milligrams. One carbohydrate serving is 15 grams. Thus, the servings of Grain foods, (bread, cereal, pasta, crackers), Fruit & Juices, Milk/Soups, and starchy Vegetables, given above, are one serving of carbohydrate (15g).

**EXERCISE** is the next component in a Lifestyle Change. Exercising for 40-45 minutes at one time every day is difficult. I found it much easier to walk at home (inside or out) for 15 min. after each meal.

I WILL do it! I CAN do it! HURRAH, I did it!

ONE DAY AT A TIME

*Katherine Wheeler, Informative and Protective Services*

### Legislative Update

Property-Tax Credit. One recent legislative change you probably already know about is that all homeowners 65 or older, or permanently disabled, now qualify for a real estate tax exemption of \$25,000 on their homes. Note, however, that you must apply for this credit prior to October 1. Applications are available at [www.tax.ohio.gov](http://www.tax.ohio.gov) <<http://www.tax.ohio.gov>> or call the county auditor's office. (In Franklin County, 462-3223). Consider reminding your elderly neighbors or get applications for them. You will need the owner's birth date to complete an on-line application.

School Funding Amendment. The proposed school funding amendment that Tom Ash will be talking about at our October meeting will not be on the ballot this year. One reason for a one-year pullback is that not enough signatures were collected. Other reasons are that the General Assembly made a few positive changes, including the change in property-tax credits, and that Governor Strickland is being consulted to discuss his campaign pledge to "fix" school funding. The delay does not affect the signatures collected to date. They are valid for next year.

Divestiture of Investments. HB 151, which requires STRS and other state pension systems to divest funds of foreign corporations doing business with Iran and Sudan, has been pulled back to the Rules Committee to allow all the systems to comply voluntarily. Sponsor Jeff Mandel (R-Lyndhurst) still wants a floor vote. This bill will likely be back on the agenda after the first of the year. Stay alert for calls by ORTA or STRS to contact legislators. See the FCRTA web site also for updates on this and other bills.

Alternative Retirement Plans. HB 152 (Widener, R-Springfield) would require school boards to offer retirement plans in addition to STRS to employees with five or fewer years of service. Currently stalled in committee, this bill if passed would be a threat to our pension fund's long-term viability.

Reemployment. HB 240 (Goodwin, R-Defiance) proposes to make changes to statutes governing public employment of school administrators and others with managerial responsibilities. Maximum reemployment pay is set at 60% of final annual salary and health care must be covered by the employer if similar and comparable coverage is provided for other employees. This bill was introduced in May. Hearings will likely be held in the fall or after the first of the year.

Health Care. A bill to preserve health care coverage for current and future retirees, carried over from the previous General Assembly, has not been reintroduced. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton) was expected to do so before the summer recess. Meanwhile, there is no bill number. Consider contacting your state representative and senator to prod for action.

*Eileen Young, FCRTA Legislative Chair*

# FCRTA

Franklin County  
Retired Teachers  
Association  
2237 Koebel Road  
Columbus, OH 43207-2825  
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DATED MATERIAL

Information for the **December 2007** issue of the *FCRTA Newsletter* should be sent to the editor, Daisy Clarke, 4016 Windermere Road, Columbus, OH 43220 by **October 27, 2007** ([aclarke@columbus.rr.com](mailto:aclarke@columbus.rr.com)).

## FRANKLIN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION

_____				
Last Name	First/Given Name	Middle Initial		
_____				
Street Address	Apt.	City	State	Zip
_____				
Telephone	_____	Year retired	_____	
_____ FCRTA Life .....	\$100.00	_____ ORTA Life.....	\$300.00	
_____ FCRTA Annual.....	\$ 10.00	_____ ORTA Annual.	\$ 20.00	

Check the organizations you are joining and enter dues here:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to FCRTA and mail to:  
Gloria Woods, 2237 Koebel Road, Columbus, OH 43207-2825  
(Enclose a stamped envelope if a dues card is desired.)

If you have moved, please inform the membership chairperson. Be sure to include your phone number.

### NEW ADDRESS

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
9 digit Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to : Gloria Woods,  
2237 Koebel Road  
Columbus, OH 43207-2825