

# FCRTA

Published 4 Times a Year

Franklin County  
Retired Teachers  
Association

Volume 47, Number 1

Columbus, Ohio

April/May, 2007

**Speaker for the April 11th Meeting will be Terri Bierdeman, the STRS Legislative Representative.** She will update us on legislation and other activities regarding our health care concerns.



**Ann Fisher, columnist for *The Columbus Dispatch* will speak on May 9.**

Ann has worked at *The Dispatch* since 1977, first as a reporter, then an editorial writer, then State Editor. Her column started in October, 2005. She also covered the Ohio Statehouse for eight years for the Blade of Toledo. Her columns tend toward public affairs with a spin, touching on national, state and local issues equally.

### Luncheons and Board Meetings:

**April 11, 2007**

Villa Milano.  
1630 Schrock Rd.

**May 9**

Clintonville Woman's Club  
3951 N. High Street

**June 20**

Aladdin Shrine  
3850 Stelzer Rd.

**Sept. 26** ORTA Diamond Jubilee Anniversary Celebration - Ohio Historical Center/Ohio Village

**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.

### **APRIL LUNCHEON RESERVATION**

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Deadline: April 4, 2007**

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

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

**Cost per person: \$15.00**

The FRANKLIN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION PEGGY GRATE/DOROTHY SCRIVENER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND will award the first teacher scholarship after several years of hard work by the Scholarship Committee and chairperson Beverly Fatig. Check the FCRTA website for scholarship application and guidelines.

### **FCRTA**

Franklin County Retired  
Teachers Association

<http://www.geocities.com/fcртаoh>

Making a Difference

Primary Mission:

Working to protect teachers'  
retirement benefits

Membership dues: Annual \$10

Lifetime \$100

## President's Message

2007 marks FCRTA's fifty-eighth year. During those 58 years, our association has witnessed many changes and innovations. None have had the potential to improve FCRTA's ability to communicate events in a rapid manner and increase membership than the start up of our FCRTA Website: <http://www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh>. Our Franklin County Chapter will be helping ORTA celebrate its 60th birthday. First is the Legislative Day on April 24 at the Ohio Statehouse. Then on September 26, we will be the host chapter for ORTA's all day Gala Anniversary at the Ohio Historical Center and the Ohio Village.

Remember - Make A Difference - Again  
Recruit a new member this year. Franklin County has approximately 8000 retired teachers; our membership is 1100!

May 10, 2007 is our 2nd Annual Clothing Collection. For information, check the FCRTA Website.

*Tom Beck, President, FCRTA*

### State Wide Quilting Bee Project

One of the many ways ORTA plans on celebrating its 60th Anniversary is with a quilt that will be prepared by members of each chapter. FCRTA will soon be getting information on the particulars of this project. Judy Durst of the ORTA staff in Columbus is spearheading the effort and assures us it isn't as hard as it sounds. She will send us the material for our chapter's portion of the quilt, along with instructions. A member or members of FCRTA will then depict our chapter on two (2) 6" x 6" quilt squares and return them to the state office by the first week in May. ORTA will have the 90 squares assembled and quilted, ready for display at STRS and at the Ohio Village during the September Celebration. The second square will be individually mounted along with historical and topical information about each chapter and also displayed. If you are interested in this project, check the FCRTA web site, <http://www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh>, for additional information.

*ORTA Leadership Bulletin, February 2007*

### Softball Game

As a part of their 60th Anniversary Celebration, ORTA is planning a softball game between the Columbus Muffins and a team comprised of retired teachers.

The celebration and the game are scheduled for September 26 at the Ohio Historical Society. Any retired teachers interested in taking part, please contact Phil Courtad at 614-268-7742.

Information for the **June 2007** issue of the **FCRTA Newsletter** should be sent to the editor, Daisy Clarke, 4016 Windermere Road, Columbus, OH 43220 by **April 25, 2007** ([aclarke@columbus.rr.com](mailto:aclarke@columbus.rr.com))

## NEW WEBSITE for FCRTA

Visit [www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh](http://www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh) to learn what's happening with FCRTA and more. Thanks to one of our members, **Diane Hendrickson**, who volunteered to be our webmaster. Diane retired from CPS after 32 years of teaching, including computer literacy and business education. We hope to include our future newsletters on our new website, plus other opportunities for our retired teachers in Franklin County. THANKS, DIANE!



### MAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Wednesday, May 9, 2007

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Deadline: May 2, 2007**

**Make checks payable to FCRTA. Send to:  
Mildred Becker  
311 East Walnut Street  
Westerville, OH 43081-2339  
Cost per person: \$15.00**

**Did you know.....**Volunteering is beneficial to the aging brain? Engaging in outside activities is vital for rejuvenating the brain as it continues to grow. What's more, physical exercise plus learning new things can improve our self-efficacy. Twenty nine of our FCRTA members reported their volunteer hours for 2006. The total was more than 18,000 hrs. We do **make a difference** in ourselves as well as to the community.

To learn about an opportunity to become involved in a healthful, fun, active learning experience, log onto our website: [www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh/](http://www.geocities.com/fcrtaoh/) and click on the "Show Camp" link or the "Volunteer Opportunities" link. If you don't use a computer, call me (Delena) at 755-4371 for information.

May 10, 2007 is designated by ORTA as **Volunteer Day** for all the chapters. Again, let's plan to participate by giving 'gently used' clothing to the United Methodist Church's Free Stores on that day.

*Delena Doan, Community Participation Chair*

## **Legislative/STRS Update**

Priorities at both the federal and state levels are currently focused on issues other than retirement and education concerns. Of course, STRS and ORTA will continue to monitor proposals that would impact us.

### **Federal Concerns**

According to a recent STRS newsletter, Capitol Hill staff members are forecasting lots of debate in the 110th Congress but, perhaps, not much action. Committee changes with Democratic leadership are in place. Issues such as concern about the war in Iraq will dominate the agenda. Media coverage will focus on the rhetoric of members of Congress and others who are presidential aspirants.

However, efforts to reform Social Security may be forthcoming. Discussion of mandatory coverage or all public employees may once again be on the table. No action on our part is suggested at this time.

Points of interest related to Ohio's congressional delegation are, one, that newly elected Senator Sherrod Brown is serving on the Health, Labor & Pensions Committee and, two, Rep. John Boehner is House minority leader, down from House majority leader, but still an influential position.

Computer links for federal government information are plentiful. One is [www.info.gov](http://www.info.gov).

### **State Concerns**

Activity in the 127th General Assembly has been slow to get off the ground even though Republicans continue to be in the majority in both houses.

A bill to preserve health care coverage for current and future retired public educators, first introduced in the lame duck session in December 2006, will be reintroduced. This bill, proposed by STRS and health care advocates for STRS (including ORTA), would increase public school teachers contributions to STRS by 2.5% and their employers contributions by 2.5% of payroll to create ongoing, dedicated funding for our health care program. Increases would be phased in over a five-year-period. Legislative action is needed to increase current maximum levels allowed by law, 10% by members and 14% by employers.

Once a new bill number is posted, it will be time to contact your state representative and state senator. Other key legislators you may wish to contact include Rep Scott Oelslager, who is expected to reintroduce the bill; Rep. Michelle Schneider; Speaker of the House Jon Husted; and Senate President Bill Harris. For contact information, use web sites such as <http://www.house.state.oh.us> and <http://www.sen.state.oh.us>.

### **STRS Concerns**

One new member on the STRS board is Craig Brooks, who was appointed by outgoing State Treasurer Jeanette Bradley. Brooks, who retired from Key Corp in Cleveland, lives in Solon.

One active seat on the STRS board is up for election this spring. Tai Hayden appears to be the only person seeking this seat four-year term. An incumbent, Hayden was elected by the current board to complete the term of Michael Billarakis, who resigned in the fall of 2006. Hayden is the first Columbus teacher in 35 years to serve on the board. She is a kindergarten teacher at Deshler and a district governor for CEA. If an election is needed, it will be held this spring. Retirees will not be eligible to vote.

In the governance area, the STRS board has proposed decreasing the amount individual board members can spend on out-of-state meetings. This change is subject to expected approval by the Ohio Ethics Commission and the Ohio Retirement Study Council.

On a positive note, STRS investment returns for calendar year 2006 were 16.9%, exceeding the benchmark of 15.8%.

*Eileen Young, Legislative*

## **Membership News**

We wish to thank all members who responded to the notices regarding their 2006 dues. Of the 128 reminders mailed, there have been over 35 responses. If your newsletter does not show FA06, you should have received a reminder. Please continue to send your dues.

### **New members:**

Cyril Duga Evelyn Lechene Pamela Scott

*Gloria Woods, Membership Chairman*

# FCRTA

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

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**

COLUMBUS, OHIO  
PERMIT NO. 1416

## 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