

Teacher Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE MORROW COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

OUR FIFTY-FOURTH YEAR

1966-2020

Affiliate of ORTA

Living Is Learning---Learning is Living

Officers

President: : Pat Maxwell

Bonnie Hildebrand

President-Elect:

Secretaries: Judy Keil & Hazel Miller

Treasurer: Diana Gottfried

NO APRIL MEETING

Do all you can to keep healthy and optimistic.

Help others who are struggling.

Welcome spring.

Learn something new

[From President Pat Maxwell](#)

Hello to all my friends in MCRTA. The sunshine in Florida is so inviting and helpful in keeping my spirits up and my old joints moving.

Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of ORTA asking retired teachers in Ohio to come together as a strong group to get involved in the Rally for Public Schools. Due to coronavirus, the rally on Wednesday, March 18th was to be an online virtual rally but then it was postponed. The purpose was to show support for public schools across Ohio and to influence Ohio legislators that face a difficult decision with regards to the diversion of school funds for EdChoice vouchers. This diversion may also impact STRS pension funds.

I am going to learn more about the Ed Choice program and how it can influence the future of our pension plan. I know that I can get more information from ORTA as well as learn how I can make a difference. Since I have been away from Ohio for two months it is so easy to “phase out” matters that are not a part of my daily life here in Florida. So, I will brush up on these two issues. I encourage you to join me in making a difference in the future of our children in public schools, as well as our state pension. Blessings!

CANCELLED

April Meeting and Retirement Seminar, March 17th

EdChoice

The Educational Choice Scholarship (EdChoice) Program provides students from designated public schools the opportunity to attend participating private schools. The program also provides low income students who are entering kindergarten through 12th grade scholarship opportunities. Parents apply for these vouchers and the deadline has been extended to April 1 this year.

The Ohio program in some form has been in place for many years. The “designated public schools” are listed because of their low grades determined by test scores and the state’s grade card system. The majority of funds for these “scholarships” are taken from the public school of residence and go with the student. In the coming year, the number of these schools may increase exponentially.

The Ohio House and Senate do not agree on whether to eliminate the grade card and just go with low-income, use both, reduce the number of schools affected, or change the credit amount. Information can be found at EdChoice, ODE, and Ohio.gov.

Teacher Grants

MCRTA awarded seven \$100 Teacher Grants this year. Katie Clark, a 5th Grade Science Teacher will use her grant to help with expenses for the *Rocket Launch* at Northmor. Jillian Kaufman will use the grant to purchase tools for the after school junior naturalist program for the fourth graders at Cardington. Lisa Keddle will use the grant to help with expenses for the *Family Math Night* for Northmor Junior and Senior High. Barb Kegley will use the grant money to purchase hands on materials for the Northmor *preschool*

to help in reading readiness. Ashley Lusetti will use the grant money to help with postage for postcards to people in other countries in an 8th grade creative writing and interpersonal communication class at Northmor. Nicole Miller, Northmor counselor will use the grant for program materials to *improve girls self-confidence and help establish healthy relationships*. Jordan Whistler will use the grant money for *field trips for real-life experiences* for the MH class at Northmor 7-12.

We appreciate these educators taking the time to apply for the grants and we look forward to learning of the results of these projects at the June meeting.

All applications were rewarded this year and it is hoped that teachers in the Mount Gilead and Highland schools will participate next year.

Proceeds from the December auction were \$377 and are designated for this project in 2020.

Volunteer Hours

The year is almost into the second quarter and we’re not sure how “social distancing” will impact our volunteer hours, but keep recording the hours. I think we could make phone calls, cards, and letters to shut-ins and distressed families.

In Sympathy

Lois Harvey, a Cardington teacher passed away this winter and the service and burial was held in Indiana. Ruby Jackson of Mt. Gilead left us this week and arrangements will be made when present precautions are lifted. We send heartfelt sympathy to their husbands and families.

From our “Watchdog” Lindsey:

“Groundwork Ohio” is a bipartisan advocacy and policy group that focuses on early childhood education and health initiatives to build a strong foundation for kids and their families. <https://groundworkohio.org/>

COMMUNICATION

Send happenings and newsletter to Marilyn Weiler mapleurn@centurylink.net . member care items to Shirley Dunahugh at tldunahugh@embarqmail.com . Find a variety of information and this newsletter at www.mcrta67.weebly.com . Email Jan Riddlebaugh if you have items to post on the web site at riddlebaugh.mj@gmail.com. You still need to send in reservations for the meetings by “snail” mail.