

**GCRTA a Chapter of ORTA
Executive Board Meeting
December 12, 2023
Geauga County Public Library Administration Building**

President Pat Cataldo called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were **Cheryl Sekura, Patrick Cataldo, Marlene Napalo, Debbie Gallagher, Judy Miller, Terry Miller, Kay Zurbuch, Carane Ladd, Gigi Vartola** and guests—member **Baker** and her husband **Jeff Baker**.

President's comments: **President Patrick Cataldo** thanked **Jean Paine** and **Cheryl Sekura** for the wonderful Christmas brunch at St. Mary's. He also read a note from his son **Bryan Cataldo**, thanking us for allowing him to entertain the group with holiday music.

President Patrick Cataldo gave us the dates for the executive meetings for 2024.

He explained the changes **Stevie** wants to make for next year's website contract. He wants to up the monthly maintenance fee to \$150.00 and the annual fee of \$300.00 for hosting services.

Debbie Gallagher distributed the minutes from the December Luncheon. **Gigi Vartola** motioned to accept the minutes with spelling corrections. **Marlene Napalo** seconded the motion, which passed.

Treasurer's Report: **Judy Miller** gave us an update on the accounts. After paying some bills, our checking account balance is \$799.83. The investment account as of 12/11/23 is \$11,408.07.

Judy will be transferring the monies from the Grant-in-aid fund over to the Teacher Education Grant since the membership voted to eliminate the Grant-in-Aid Grant.

She shared a spread sheet with us that she will be using for her report at our executive meetings.

Carane Ladd motioned to accept the treasurer's report. **Debbie Gallagher** seconded the motion, which passed.

Programs: Cheryl Sekura- The next luncheon will be held at Mary Yoder's in Middlefield on February 6th.

President Patrick Cataldo introduced **Jackie and Jeff Baker**. They have been in contact with **Cheryl Sekura** about the running of our website. They went over the steps needed for this to be done. There was a lengthy discussion on this.

Legislation: Cheryl Sekura- The hearings on 12/12 in the senate are SB 162 Brenner—regarding academic intervention service, SB 168 Reynolds—regarding education regulation reform, HB 8 Swearingen/Carruthers—Parents Bill of Rights which has already passed through the House. This is to require public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexuality content. On 12/13 these three bills will go into the 6th hearing.

Also on 12/13 is the government oversight Sub HB 68 Enact Ohio Saving Adolescents from Experimentation Act. This has passed in the House. If you want to see any of the hearings go to ohiochannel.org. You will see rectangles which tell you what committee hearing it is.

Membership: Jean Paine- We welcome new members: **Rose Ricci** from Cleveland Metro Schools. **Gloria Boyd** encouraged her to join! Next, **Shari McCaslin** from Grand Valley Schools. She is also a LIFETIME member! **Donna Kubic** is from West Geauga Schools! She was brought in by **Sue Crabtree**.

Michele Dawson is from Cleveland Hts. University Hts. Thank you, **Dan MacDonald**, for persuading her to join! We also have **Karen Darnell** from South Euclid/Lyndhurst Schools. Thank you, Lorraine Blake!

Kathy Yazvac is from South Euclid/Lyndhurst Schools. Thank you, **Lisa Ciocia**. In addition, we have **Bryan Kimmel** from Ashtabula Teaching and Career Center. Thank you, **Debbie Gallagher**. **Margie Kreft** is from Chardon Schools. Nice work, **Kathy Vinciquerra**! Lastly, we have **Gail Duchscherer** from Cardinal Schools. Thank you, **Kay and Claire Zurbuch**.

Patricia Wright and **Cliff Evans** are now LIFETIME members.

A big thank you to our members who are always striving to bring in new members!

Hospitality: Gigi Vartola- She is sending items to **Cindy Spikell** for the *News You Can Use*. **Jane Battles** passed away this past week. Her husband, **Ramone Battles**, had also passed away recently. Both were Life GCRTA members.

Historian: Kay Zurbuch- She is still having some issues with getting photos put on the website. She is not sending as many photos to **Cindy Spikell** the News you can use.

Teacher Education Grant: Judy Miller- We gave out 5 grants to teachers this fall. It was decided that the committee will decide how many grants to give out each year. **Marlene Napalo** is considering taking this over with **Judy's** help.

Public Relations: Carane Ladd- Newspapers are printing her ads. She would like someone younger to take over this position.

We may want to consider having our August picnic elsewhere. Century Village will be raising their rates in 2024.

Cheryl Sekura passed out data on our attendance at luncheons from 2014 to 2023. She suggested that we consider discontinuing the Aug. picnic due to lower attendance.

Cheryl Sekura provided to the executive bd. members copies of the revised by-laws that show the revisions approved by membership at the Dec. 5th brunch.

No old or new business.
Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Gallagher

Recording Secretary