

**GCRTA a Chapter of ORTA
Executive Board Meeting
June 13, 2023
Geauga County Public Library Administration Building**

President Pat Cataldo called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were **Cheryl Sekura, Carane Ladd, Patrick Cataldo, Jean Paine, Kay Zurbuch, Marlene Napalo, Dan MacDonald, and Debbie Gallagher.**

President's Comments: President Patrick Cataldo thanked **Cheryl Sekura** and **Jean Paine** for last week's wonderful luncheon.

Wade Steen gave a very informative talk with a great follow-up by **Robin Rayfield.**

The website is running nicely. **Judy** will pay **Stevie** on the 15th of each month.

Carane Ladd motioned to accept the minutes as read. **Marlene Napalo** seconded the motion which passed.

Refer to the June 7th luncheon minutes for the treasurer's report.

Programs: Jean Paine/Cheryl Sekura- Dan MacDonald suggested having **Christina Elliot** (the head of STRS benefit department) speak this fall, Oct. 3rd, on the transition from Express Scripts to CVS that will take place on January 1, 2024.

October and December luncheons will be at St. Mary's.

Legislation: Cheryl Sekura- Cheryl gave us information on HB-8 that is coming up.

Membership: Jean Paine- It is a pleasure to introduce our new members! **Denis Gorby** from Kenston Schools. Thank you, Gene Fenstermaker, for this lovely new member!

Next, we have **Evelyn Bradshaw** from Cleveland Hts./University Hts. Schools. We have **David Hancock** to thank for this super new member! We appreciate all the efforts of our own members to encourage prospective members to join GCRTS.

Lastly, we have two LIFETIME MEMBERS! **Grace Henry** and the **Honorable Forrest Burt**. We appreciate your strong support of our association!

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We have added 8 new members since January.

Historian: Kay Zurbuch- Kay is continuing to work on organizing photos and information into scrap books. She will work with **Pat** on a display of photos for the fair.

Fair: Wally Waldbauer- Pat talked to **Wally** about this year's school display at the fair. There will be no display of school history this year. That area can be used for more school displays. We will be putting up photos from our luncheons in the GCRTA display area.

A volunteer sign-up sheet for working the fair will be passed around at the luncheon.

Grant-in-Aid: Marlene Napalo- Announcements have been placed in the newspapers. It was decided to give one grant of \$1,000 this year.

Public Relations: Carane Ladd- The papers are being very cooperative. The information for the Grant-in-Aid was published. **Pat** suggested adding the website gcrta.net for any further information.

Cheryl spoke with **Amy Patterson** with the Maple Leaf. She would like to run a big article about GCRTA. Who we are and what we do etc. She would touch on some of the problems that affect teachers.

STRS Liasion: DanMacDonald- The last meeting of the fiscal year will be held on June 15th. The budget ends on June 30th. We are getting a 1% COLA. Actives will maintain 34 years for full retirement. They will address a 2%merit pay.

To determine your COLA sign in to STRS Ohio, then to my account. At the bottom of the first column, you will find how much you will get and when it will start.

Dan also stressed that in coming teachers should be signing up for define benefit, **not** define contribution. We need to, somehow, get this information out to the school.

New Business: A representative from the library explained the RASCAL READER program. Some of our retired teachers may wish to volunteer to help with this program. Volunteers will be reading to kindergarten classes in Geauga County in October.

Old Business: We need consider creating a separate 501-C3 tax-exempt foundation. **Dan** will get the information needed to apply for this.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Gallagher
Recording Secretary

