

If you know of a retired woman teacher who is not yet a member of our RWTO/OERO branch, please invite her to come to the meeting with you. Let the person that you contact know whom you will be bringing with you. All qualified teachers who are retired are eligible to be members of RWTO/OERO regardless of whether they are receiving a teacher's pension. Teachers on Long Term Disability may become members.

CHRISTMAS MEETING

Our Christmas meeting was held at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Port Hope on December 1, 2011. We were pleased to have our provincial president, Annette Rhodes, and our area 7 district director, Barbara Moorcroft, with us. A lovely 'In Memoriam' service was conducted by Vicki Cubitt along with the branch choir. Annette brought greetings and brought us up-to-date on the work of the provincial board of directors. She asked the members several questions and said that she would be sharing her answers in the March provincial newsletter. She reported that the board would like all branches to connect to the provincial website.

The branch president, Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers, capably handled the business portion of the meeting. Reports from the various conveners were given. A silent auction of a variety of gently used books was held to help with expenses. A monetary gift of \$138 and gifts for children were collected for the Northumberland Giving Tree. Nominations were received for the branch Cora Bailey Award. Our branch president and treasurer will be the delegates for the provincial June conference.

After a delicious chicken breast dinner, we were delighted to hear selections from our branch choir under the leadership of Vicki Cubitt. If you love to sing, please see Vicki about joining the group. They are always looking for new members. Angie Fazekas from 'Ten Thousand Villages', a Fair Trade store, presented an interesting talk on its work of selling a variety of articles from artisans in third world countries so women can support their families. She had some products with her for sale.

OTHER NEWS

Membership Fees: Fees for 2012-13 are due in the fall and will be collected at the fall meeting. Members involved in the RWTO/OERO group insurance **must** renew membership by that time. Membership cards will be distributed at that meeting.

Fees for the 2012-2013 year can also be paid at the May 1st spring meeting, or you may send your fees to - **Julia Esford, 1268 Cherrydown Drive, Oshawa, ON L1H 7T2.**

Fees: Provincial RWTO Fee - Members retired before August, 1980 pay \$15.00.
- All other members pay \$40.00.

Branch Fee - \$5.00 per member.

Cheques: Please make out to RWTO/OERO Northumberland-South Durham.

Membership Fees (cont.'d)

Rebate: The provincial rebate to each branch is based on \$10.00 per member paying the \$40 fee and \$8.00 per member paying the \$15.00 fee.

Branch Membership: At present, we have 65 members and 5 life members. A life member is one who is unable to manage the details of her personal affairs or is a member who can no longer attend meetings due to chronic ill health, physical impairment, mobility or age. She does not pay the membership fee. * If you know of someone who should be in this category of membership, please let someone on the executive know. Nominees for this status must first be approved by the branch executive. The branch president or treasurer will then inform the RWTO executive secretary-treasurer, Gloria Drake. It would be wonderful if the Northumberland-South Durham Branch could earn the **Barbara Bain Membership Award**. This is an award created by the provincial RWTO to honour Barbara, a past president and the first membership convener. Branches who achieve the largest annual increases in membership are eligible for cash awards.

Cora Bailey Award: Cora Bailey from the Peterborough branch was RWTO's first executive secretary-treasurer. She held this position for eleven years until 1982 and wrote the History Book - OASWT 1956-1976. Beginning in 2003, this award was presented in her honour. The Cora Bailey Award may be presented to a branch member(s) who has contributed outstanding service to her branch. The branch recipient for 2011 will be honoured at the May1st, 2012 meeting.

Goodwill: The goodwill conveners send cards to members who are ill, for special occasions, to those over ninety and those who are in nursing homes or hospital. They send sympathy cards in cases of bereavement of a member's immediate family or someone very close to that member. They report the illness, death or important changes in a member's status to the membership convener. In order to do their job, the conveners need to be informed if any of the above needs to be attended to as they do not know every member personally. If you know of someone that needs attention in some way, please contact:

West of Port Hope	Jan Engel	905 623 4071
Municipality of Port Hope, Hamilton Township & Cobourg	Muriel Bell	905 885 2882
East of Cobourg	Astrida Jenkinson- Chalmers	613 475 1608
Visitation (shutins in their homes, and nursing homes)	Bonnie Greer	905 372

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

Tues. May 1st	after spring meeting	Branch Executive Meeting
Wed. May 9th	1:30 pm	Branch Annual Birthday Party - Rosewood Estates Gracious Retirement Living, 255 Densmore Road, Cobourg Entertainment - Branch Choir
June 5th, 6th, 7th		RWTO/OERO 56th Annual Convention - Delta Sault St. Marie Waterfront Hotel

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013

(to be installed at 2012 fall meeting)

Executive:

Past President	Vicki Cubitt
President	Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers
First Vice-President	
Second Vice-President	Valdeen Button
Secretary	Jan Engel
Treasurer, Membership	Julia Esford

Conveners:

Goodwill - West	Jan Engel
- Municipality of Port Hope, Hamilton Township, Cobourg	Muriel Bell
- East of Cobourg	Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers
- Visitation	Bonnie Greer
Archivist	Lee Beech
Insurance	Carolle Kennedy-Harding
Issues & Concerns	Astrida Jenkinson-Chalmers
Newsletter & Brochure	Joan Smith
Program/Social - East	Bonnie Greer
- Central	Muriel Bell
- West	Linda Hansen
Crafts	Valdeen Button

Hopefully, a 1st Vice-President & a new Newsletter Editor can be found. Please contact Astrida 613 475 1608 or a.chalmers@hotmail.ca for more information if you are interested.

Branch Newsletter: To save postage and photocopying expense the spring newsletter was sent by email to those who have given us an email address. If you received yours by mail and you do have email, please let the editor, Joan Smith, know (joan.charlie@sympatico.ca) in time for the fall issue.