

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
April 5 at 10:00

**LCRTA Dues Reminder**  
Please Support ORTA

LCRTA's fiscal year is January 1 – December 31. If you pay your dues annually and have not made a payment for 2022, you need to do so immediately.

If you are a member of LCRTA, but not ORTA, PLEASE consider joining ORTA for \$30 annually. ORTA is doing so much for all of us by advocating for our COLA reinstatement. Make your check payable to LCRTA and note on the memo that it is LCRTA and/or ORTA dues and mail to LCRTA. THANKS!

**LUCKY WINNERS**  
**MARCH**

**Joyce Sparks—\$61.25**  
**Emma Oravec—\$61.25**  
Donated money to LCRTA  
**Basket—Judy Reber**  
Gave blanket to Bethany House

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President**

**"Reflective thinking turns experience into insight."**  
– John C. Maxwell

Do you find yourself being more reflective in the Spring? I do! This year even more so perhaps because I feel the world, at least my world, is opening up after two years of fear of Covid and so much isolation. On the other hand, my mind is reeling with the war in Ukraine and feelings of helplessness as there seems so little that I can do. Then I find myself reflecting on my life's purpose and am I doing what I can/should do to fulfill that purpose.



Your LCRTA board discussed at our March meeting that while we have by-laws, we do not have a Mission Statement and that we need to spend some time in reflection and develop one. When you reflect on why you joined LCRTA and hopefully, ORTA, what are your reasons? Celebration of a well-deserved retirement after many years of dedicated teaching? Fellowship with other retirees? Helping the underserved in our community by making donations

to LCRTA's Community Partners? Expanding your knowledge by hearing from a variety of luncheon speakers? Staying current on legislation that impacts retired educators? Celebrating future educators by support of LCRTA's scholarships? Or simply enjoying a delicious lunch at a beautiful location six times per year?

**"People are sent into our lives to teach us things that we need to learn about ourselves."**  
– Mandy Hale

I am encouraged that at each luncheon more members are attending! If you are "easing" back into the world again, please join us on **April 21<sup>st</sup> at Brandywine Country Club** to hear a very knowledgeable and interesting speaker on NW Ohio and the Underground Railroad, support Mom's House and spend time with others. Consider inviting a new member or an "absent" colleague or friend. We can learn about ourselves by spending time with other LCRTA members and friends.

**A FRESH START—Pauline LoCascio**

**MomsHouseToledo.org**

A Warm Heart at Mom's House—We all probably have memories of finding a "warm heart" at our own mom's house, even after we're grown. Sunday dinners, family celebrations and many other special times there gave us comfort and memories. This also gave us a chance to share life's ups and downs while surrounded by support and acceptance and to let us know we were loved.

Imagine, if those memories were shattered by violence. If that happens, imagine a place that can assist women and children to bring them the comfort we all want. That place is our April Community Partner, Mom's House. They are dedicated not only to just helping their clients survive, but assist them to start a new life with acceptance and support.

In their almost 30 years of service, Mom's House has

focused on education as a way to give hope to both women and children to break the cycle of abuse. In 2021 alone, 100% of eligible graduates entered the work force; 100% of the preschool children graduates were ready for Kindergarten; also, 90% of the moms completed the Family Wellness Program. Mom's House considers this their "Heart Work."

At our April 21<sup>st</sup> luncheon we will hear from Christina Rodriguez, Executive Director of Mom's House. She will share the new challenges and the resilience of the families and staff.

Let's show our warm heart once again, by bringing a donation of needed items: diapers (sizes 5 & 6), Pullups (2t/3t & 4t/5t) paper plates/bowls/towels, garbage bags,

# THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)

## Brandywine Country Club

(6904 Salisbury Road; Maumee)

**PROGRAM: Underground Railroad**

### CHOICES OF ENTRÉE ARE:

**#1 Chicken Marsala:** chicken breast seared & smothered in mushrooms with marsala wine reduction served with roasted red potatoes

**#2 Vegetable and Marinara Pasta:** Chef's choice of grilled mixed vegetables, in marinara sauce with penne pasta

**Note: Brandywine allows only two choices**

### Entrée served with:

House Garden Salad, Rolls & Butter Iced Tea & Coffee, Assorted Cookies

**COST — \$23.00**

Reservations due: **Thursday, April 14**

- ◆ Please complete reservation form at right & include with **check payable to LCRTA**
- ◆ We're Sorry, But **NO SUBSTITUTIONS**

*In order to ensure the safety of our guests, we ask that, if you have chosen not to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you respectfully decline our invitation to attend.*

## APRIL 21, 2022 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

I will attend the luncheon at Brandywine Country Club

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Choice # \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Choice # \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: (\$23.00 X Number Attending) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations are due **by April 14**. Please mail to:

Jeannine Petcoff  
15139 Todd Road  
Petersburg, MI 49270

**Mail EARLY!!!**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LCRTA**

### DIRECTIONS to BRANDYWINE—

- Take **475/23** to the Salisbury Road exit
- **Continue West on Salisbury Road past Briarfield Boulevard** (on South—Left side)
- **Brandywine Entrance is on North side** (Right)
- If you get to **Holloway Road**, you missed the Entrance to Brandywine Country Club

## APRIL PROGRAM

The **Underground Railroad in Northwest Ohio** presented by Dr. Janet Rozick, a volunteer with the Lathrop House in Sylvania  
Dr. Rozick works as an Associate Professor at American Public University. She earned her B.A. in History from Heidelberg College, an M.A. in History from BGSU, and her Ph.D. from UT. She held positions at the Hayes Presidential Center, Wood County Historical Society, the Metroparks, and at Maumee Valley Historical Society. Her research focus includes the 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers, the Underground Railroad in Northwest Ohio, and the environmental conservation and preservation movements.

### A FRESH START—Continued from Page 1

crayons, laundry pods, Lysol cleaning wipes, non-bleach toilet cleaner, gift cards (\$10/\$20 increments) for Kroger's, Walmart or Amazon. If you are unable to attend our luncheon, consider a tax deductible donation to: Mom's House, 2505 Franklin Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43610.

Thank you for your support of our Community Partners.

**Mission Statement of LCRTA Community Partner Program**  
*Our LCRTA Community Partnership Program is committed, when able, to provide monetary as well as requested supplies to selected Lucas County non-profits for the ultimate benefit of their clients.*

**ORTA's recommendations for STRS Ohio Retirement Board to protect our retirement—Elizabeth Jones, Julie Sellers, & Steven Foreman.**

## 2022 LUNCHEON & COMMUNITY PARTNER DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<b>APRIL 21</b>	Brandywine Country Club	Mom's House	See article on Page 1
<b>May 18</b>	Highland Meadows Golf Club	Read for Literacy	Books
<b>SEPTEMBER 22</b>	Stone Oak Country Club	Leading Families Home	TBA
<b>OCTOBER 20</b>	Inverness Country Club	East Toledo Family Center	TBA
<b>DECEMBER 1</b>	Toledo Club	Children's Services	Stuffed Animals, Cars

## 2022 LCRTA and/or ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State &amp; Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Retired: \_\_\_\_\_ School served: \_\_\_\_\_

LCRTA DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly \_\_\_\_\_ Life  
LCRTA (\$20 per year, \$175 Life Membership)ORTA DUES: \_\_\_\_\_ Yearly  
ORTA (\$30 per year)

DATE (today's) \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to LCRTA (one check handles both LCRTA & ORTA)**Send this form & check to: **LCRTA Treasurer; 2155 Arlington Avenue; Toledo, OH 43609****MARCH LUNCHEON EVALUATION—Doris Weis**

Nice to be back! The LCRTA luncheon and meeting was held at Toledo Country Club Thursday, March 17, 2022, St. Patrick's Day, with 80 members and guests attending. Everyone was very pleased with Toledo Country Club, the delicious food, and Dr Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of ORTA. Some of the comments were:

Love TCC! ~ Staff is so helpful! ~ Open bar was nice! ~Chicken very tender & flavorful! ~Meal was reasonably priced considering it included drink, dessert, & tip. ~ Great centerpieces. ~ Wonderful view of the Maumee River. ~ Dr. Rayfield was very enlightening, excellent speaker! ~ So glad to hear retirement updates!

**LIFE IN TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya**

"A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant"

A former colleague posted this on Facebook after this message: *"Oh, boy, I can relate to this. I was scammed today, and I thought I was too smart to be scammed. Very humbling experience. Don't even ask."*

I do not consider myself a gullible person. I do consider myself savvy when it comes to avoiding cons. I know what a Ponzi scam is (Bernie Madoff), and I delete all emails from Nigeria. So how in the heck did I come so close to divulging all my personal information and wind up having to cancel all my credit cards? It was easy – I let my guard down briefly one Tuesday morning in January. It all began with an email from Norton, my security provider. The email stated that I owed \$112 for my annual membership. How could this be? I quickly checked my bank statements and found that I had paid \$64.34 in August. How dare this company ask for more money? So, I went down the rabbit hole and used our landline to call the number listed on the email. A gentleman answered and assured me he would take care of the problem immediately. Somehow, through his cajoling and my fear of losing \$112, I allowed him remote access to my computer. Suddenly, I had an "ah ha" moment and knew that something wasn't right as he asked for my bank password. I hung up immediately. At that point, I re-examined the email. Oops, this had come from NortEn not NortOn! Immediately, I called the real Norton on my cell phone. The gentleman who answered was certain that my computer had just been

attacked and a virus had invaded it. So, he wanted to run a scan and "disinfect my computer." At that moment, the landline rang. My husband answered it, yelled for me to pick up because Norton was calling, wondering why I had hung up. I very brusquely told the swindler that I was on the phone with the real Norton. Fake Norton replied, "How do you know?" So, I put the two phones next to one another, and let them duke it out. Fake Norton hung up. I, of course, had a complete meltdown, sniffing as I cried "How can I tell if you are real or fake?" Within an hour my computer was "clean." I immediately went to my bank and requested new credit cards, even though no one had used them yet.

I learned that no matter how knowledgeable I think I am about scams, it was very easy to trust a stranger for just one moment. This month there are two very bingeable mini-series about cons on Netflix. *The Tinder Swindler* and *Inventing Anna* are both based, sadly, on very true stories. Both are riveting accounts of people getting ripped off by unscrupulous con artists. Also, AARP has a great weekly podcast called [The Perfect Scam](#). Each 30-minute episode profiles people who have experienced scams firsthand. The old me would have made fun of anyone "taken" by these thieves, but the new me now sees how easy it really is to be conned. I am humbled by my experience, and with a tad bit of embarrassment am sharing. I fear that in the time of Covid, more despicable people may be involved in anything that potentially could make money. So stay safe, my friends. Don't take any wooden nickels.

## 2022 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Past President—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Secretary—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Comm. With ORTA—Sharon Clark: 419.345.5571  
Corresponding Secretary—Pat Holz: 419.740.2274  
Treasurer—Nancy Wiegand: 419.866.1980  
Budget/Finance—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Comm. Partnerships—Pauline LoCascio: 419.779.1569  
MaryEllen Bollenbacher: 419.277.8165  
Evaluations—Doris Weiss: 419.874.2275  
Hospitality—Jo Ascunce: 419.308.2928  
Legislative—Jeanene Pifer: 419.385.6863  
Lunch Reservations—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Membership—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Public Relations—Debbie Mens: 419.344.1006  
Scholarship—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603  
Slate Editor/Webmaster—Jane Nawrocki: 419.861.7766  
Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
50/50 Raffle—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
Judy Egan

THE SLATE  
Lucas County Chapter  
Ohio Retired Teachers Association  
2155 Arlington Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43609

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TOLEDO OH  
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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE—adapted from article by Harvey Mackay

I was waiting in line for a ride at the airport. When a cab pulled up, the first thing I noticed was that the taxi was polished to a bright shine. Smartly dressed in a white shirt, black tie, and freshly pressed black slacks, the cab driver jumped out and rounded the car to open the back passenger door for me. He handed me a laminated card and said:

'I'm Wally, your driver. While I'm loading your bags in the trunk I'd like you to read my mission statement. Taken aback, I read the card. It said: Wally's Mission Statement: To get my customers to their destination in the quickest, safest, and cheapest way possible in a friendly environment. This blew me away. Especially when I saw that the inside of the cab matched the outside. Spotlessly clean!

As he slid behind the wheel, Wally said, 'Would you like a cup of coffee? I have regular and decaf.'

I said jokingly, 'No, I'd prefer a soft drink.'

Wally smiled and said, 'No problem. I have a cooler up front with regular and Diet Coke, water, and orange juice.'

Almost stuttering, I said, 'I'll take Diet Coke.'

Handing me my drink, Wally said, 'If you'd like something to read, I have *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, *Sports Illustrated* and *USA Today*.'

As we were pulling away, Wally handed me another laminated card, 'These are the stations I get and the music they play, if you'd like to listen to the radio.' And as if that weren't enough, Wally told me that he had the heater on and asked if the temperature was comfortable for me.

Then he advised me of the best route to my destination for that time of day.

'Tell me, Wally,' I was amazed and asked him, 'have you always served customers like this?'

Wally smiled into the rearview mirror. 'No, not always. In fact, it's only been the last two years. My first five years driving, I spent most of my time complaining like all the rest of the cabbies. Then I heard a podcast by Wayne Dyer. He said that if you get up in the morning expecting to have a bad day, you'll rarely disappoint yourself. Stop complaining! Don't be a duck. Be an eagle. Ducks quack and complain. Eagles soar above the crowd.'

'That hit me,' said Wally. He continued, 'Dyer was talking about me. I was always quacking and complaining, so I decided to change my attitude and become an eagle. I looked around at the other cabs and their drivers. The cabs were dirty, the drivers were unfriendly, and the customers were unhappy. So I decided to make some changes. I added a few. When my customers responded well, I added more.'

'I take it that has paid off for you,' I said.

'It sure has,' Wally replied. 'My first year as an eagle, I doubled my income from the previous year. This year I'll probably quadruple it. My customers call me for appointments on my cell phone or leave a message.'

Wally made a choice. He decided to stop quacking like ducks and start soaring like eagles.

I hope that today we all decide to soar like an eagle.