

# The Slate

Affiliated with ORTA

Volume 53, Issue 1

[LCRTA.WEEBLY.COM](http://LCRTA.WEEBLY.COM)

March 2024

## NEXT BOARD MEETING March 5, 2024

### MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lucas County Chapter of the Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association is committed to **furthering** the cause of education by **providing** meaningful contact opportunities with fellow educators, **sharing** current valuable information, **inspiring** members to continue their life of service, and **promoting** the benefits of membership in both Lucas County Retired Teachers Association (LCRTA) and Ohio Retirement for Teachers Association (ORTA).

### DECEMBER WINNERS

Martha Limmer—\$125

Carole Wolfe—\$125

Janet Ernsthansen—Basket

*Please bring \$5 or \$10 bills to purchase 50/50 tickets*

### HOW CAREFULLY DO YOU READ? CONTEST

- Find this picture in This Slate 
- Print that page
- Circle the exact picture
- Write your name on the page
- At the March 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon, place page in the contest box to enter to win one of two prizes

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro

Happy 2024 to all of you! I hope that my greetings find you all healthy and happy and surviving winter in NW Ohio. Maybe by the time you read this, the sun will have come out!

You may recall that I made New Year resolutions a couple of years ago? I have abandoned that practice but am still focusing on **gratitude**. If you have read my President letters, you know I like quotations from



famous or not so famous people. I had the opportunity to travel recently and in my rental unit there were two signs that resonated with me: "Write your own life story" and "Be the reason someone smiles today." They are simple at first glance but

they made me reflect on my life and my daily behaviors. While I may have lived the majority of my life, there is no reason that I cannot still "write more of my story." I love traveling and volunteering and will continue to do so as long as I am able. I do try each day to be positive and "shake" my anxieties. My interaction with others, whether friends or strangers, does bring me joy. I aim to try to bring a smile to others, too.

I hope to see most of you on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Toledo Country Club for an early St. Patrick's Day luncheon and to hear an important update from Robin Rayfield.

## A WELCOME SIGN—Pauline LoCasio



BETHANY HOUSE

This time of year we are looking for some signs of spring. Warmer weather, more sunshine and plants awakening are all signs of new beginnings. One sign that we see all year long though, are those "Welcome" signs on the front porches of homes.

To us, these signs may bring thoughts of a warm fire, hot chocolate, relaxation and safety. Imagine though, when **victims of domestic violence** first see the "Welcome" sign that **Bethany House** extends to them. This place provides a safe environment where families can feel the comfort of a home free of violence.

The mission of Bethany House is to empower survivors by providing long term apartment style housing for up to one year. They provide access to resources, education and counseling to restore hope with dignity and

respect.

To aid in healing, each family receives a warm space that is their own.

At our March luncheon, Deidra Lashley, Executive Director, will relate how Bethany House reduces the feelings of isolation and anxiety, and empowers each family to feel "Welcome." The needs of Bethany House are: **tissues, paper towels, dish soap, room freshener, twin blankets, body wash, body lotion, hair care products, mouthwash and female shaving supplies, as well as gift cards from Kroger, Meijer, and Walmart.**

Thank you, LCRTA members, for all you do each month, by buying raffle tickets, and giving money and/or in-kind donations for our Community Partners to make them feel "Welcome" again.

# Thursday, March 14, 2024

LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)

## Toledo Country Club

3949 River Road, Toledo

**PROGRAM SPEAKER:** Robin Rayfield  
Executive Director of ORTA

### ENTRÉE CHOICES:

- #1 **Chicken Cordon Bleu** served with rosemary redskin potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- #2 **Herb Crusted Pork Loin** with mustard apricot glaze; served with rosemary redskin potatoes & seasonal vegetables
- #3 **Butternut Squash Ravioli** with maple glaze

### Entrée served with:

Orchard Salad (mixed greens, candied walnuts, parmesan cheese & apples), Rolls & Butter Dessert, Coffee or Tea

**COST — \$29.00**

Reservations due: **Monday, March 4**

- ◆ Please complete reservation form at right & include with **check payable to LCRTA**
- ◆ Cash Bar available
- ◆ Ample parking; handicapped accessible
- ◆ We're Sorry, but...**NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NO REFUNDS, PLEASE DO NOT CALL VENUE**

*We are trusting that all attendees are free of COVID symptoms on day of event*

## MARCH 14, 2024 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

I will attend the luncheon at Toledo Country Club

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

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

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

TOTAL: (\$29.00 X Number Attending) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations **MUST** be received by **MARCH 4**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LCRTA

Please mail to:

**Jeannine Petcoff**  
**15139 Todd Rd**  
**Petersburg, MI 49270**

Questions? Contact Jeannine at:  
jcpetcoff@gmail.com or  
734.854.7511

**Mail BEFORE  
FEBRUARY 26**

### DIRECTIONS to TOLEDO COUNTRY CLUB

- **Anthony Wayne Trail** through Maumee heading north into Toledo
- **Turn right on Copland Boulevard**—Copland will dead end into River Road
- **Turn left onto River Road**—Club is ahead on right

## MARCH PROGRAM—Protecting our Retirement

Robin Rayfield, ORTA Executive Director, March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be updating us on our STRS pensions. He will be discussing STRS investments, the losses, and our COLA at the [ORTA.org](http://ORTA.org). Please checkout [ORTA.org](http://ORTA.org). Bring questions to ask Mr. Rayfield.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 2024 LUNCHEONS

DATE	LOCATION	PARTNER	NEEDS
MARCH 14	TOLEDO COUNTRY CLUB	BETHANY HOUSE	TISSUES, PAPER TOWELS, DISH SOAP, ROOM FRESHENER, TWIN BLANKETS, BODY WASH, BODY LOTION, HAIR CARE PRODUCTS, MOUTHWASH, FEMALE SHAVING SUPPLIES, GIFT CARDS FROM KROGER, MEIJER, AND/OR WALMART
April 18	Belmont Country Club	East Toledo Family Center	
May 21	Highland Meadows Golf Club	Read for Literacy	

2024 LCRTA and/or ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

City, State & 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 check payable to LCRTA (one check handles both LCRTA & ORTA)



Send this form & check to: LCRTA Treasurer; 2155 Arlington Avenue; Toledo, OH 43609



SHARE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH A FRIEND
LCRTA 2024 DUES YEAR RUNS JANUARY 1—DECEMBER 31

CHANGE OF ADDRESS or EMAIL ADDRESS
Text/Call Ruthann Manders at: 419.343.3346
Email Ruthann at: rlsmanders@gmail.com

DECEMBER LUNCHEON EVALUATION—Doris Weiss

Great festive day! The LCRTA luncheon and meeting was held Thursday, December 7, 2023 at The Toledo Club downtown Toledo with one hundred and one members and guests attending. St Ursula's Bella Voce Honor Choir was the magnificent entertainment. Family House was the Community Partner.

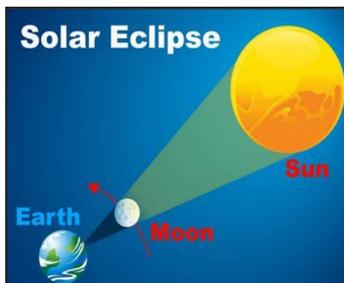
- Some of the comments were:
• Stellar luncheon event.
• Beautifully decorated.
• Great veggie meal!
• Pork was delicious.
• Choir was fantastic & amazing.



ONE OF NATURE'S BEST OF THE BEST SHOWS IS COMING TO TOLEDO—Jeannine Petcoff

On Monday, April 8, 2024, "Toledoans" will have the rare opportunity of observing one of Mother Nature's greatest events – a total eclipse of the Sun. This awe-inspiring event (when the Earth, Moon, and Sun align causing the Moon to block the Sun's light and cast a shadow on earth's surface) will take place at 3:12:17 EDT and will last approximately one minute and fifty-three seconds.

For us, the eclipse will actually begin around 1:56 pm with the gradual darkening of the sky as the Moon begins to cover the Sun's surface. The Moon will completely cover the Sun at 3:12:17 pm when the eclipse will reach its totality or total darkness. For one minute and fifty-three seconds we will safely be able to look directly at the Sun (without any eye protection), see the Corona, possibly a prominence or coronal mass ejection, stars in daytime, natural midday blackness, feel the air temperature drop, hear birds stop chirping, and maybe even witness a touch of nocturnal and non-nocturnal wildlife confusion. At approximately 3:14 pm totality will end and the Moon will begin to



uncover the Sun, allowing the sky to gradually lighten to its fullness once again. Mother Nature and weather permitting, the entire "sky show" will last about two hours and thirty minutes.

A Special Safety Reminder:

- It is NEVER safe to look directly at the Sun with the "naked" eye, camera, binoculars, or telescope. To do so can cause permanent eye damage or even blindness.
• During the pre and post phases of the eclipse (the gradual covering and uncovering of the Sun by the Moon), it is NOT safe to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection – ISO 12132-2 solar viewing or solar eclipse glasses.
• Only during totality is it safe to view the Sun directly without specialized eye protection. NASA does NOT endorse any brand of ISO 12132-2 solar viewing or eclipse glasses.
Miss out on the event? The next Ohio total eclipse is not due until 2099! Keep your fingers crossed for optimum viewing weather!!!

solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses & Old Farmers 2024 Almanac

## 2024 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Past President—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Secretary—Kathy Benya: 419.508.8362  
Corresponding Secretary—Pat Holz: 419.740.2274  
Co-Treasurer/Budget—Nancy Wiegand: 419.866.1980  
Co-Treasurer—Pat Price: 419.350.1650  
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  
Or email her at: jcpetcoff@gmail.com  
Membership—Ruthann Manders: 419.343.3346  
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Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
50/50 Raffle—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
Judy Egan

## THE SLATE

Lucas County Chapter Of ORTA  
2155 Arlington Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43609

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## SPOTLIGHT ON LCRTA OFFICERS: JO ASCUNCE & PAULINE LOCASIO—Kathy Benya

Over the next few months, officers and committee chairs will be featured in the Slate. We want you to know the people who are doing so much to make Lucas County Retired Teachers Association a success.

### JO ASCUNCE - HOSPITALITY

#### Where were you born?

Wood County Hospital, Bowling Green

#### What schools did you attend?

Bradner Elementary, Lakota High School and BGSU

#### What were your first and last teaching assignments?

First- Birmingham Elementary, TPS (general music)

Last – Glendale-Feilbach, TPS (general music)

#### Describe one of the funniest incidents in your classroom.

When repeatedly reprimanding a child for continually shouting out the word “trombone,” he responded to me by making a trombone sound “wah wah wah...”

#### Tell us a little about your family.

My husband is Raul, a retired engineering technician and current humor writer and columnist. We have a son, Jesse, and daughter, Jodi, and two granddaughters and two grand dogs.

#### Are you active in other organizations?

I am past president and webmaster and current member of University Women of BGSU. I have been a Red Cross blood drive coordinator, and I initiated Citizens for BG Dog Parks. I am also involved in various musical groups.

### PAULINE LOCASIO - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

#### Where were you born?

I was born on April 4, 1950 at Toledo Hospital

#### What schools did you attend?

I attended Cherry School, Whitney Vocational High School, University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University.

#### What were your first and last teaching assignments?

I only taught at Birmingham School for 36 years. I taught Special Education, first grade, and second grade. I was a science lab instructor through Michigan State University. My final assignment was second grade.

#### What is one piece of advice you would give our newly retired members?

After retiring, give yourself time each day to enjoy family and do things that you weren't able to do when you taught. Go for a lunch date with friends or a movie matinee, shop, babysit, and travel.

#### Tell us a little about your family.

I have been married to John for 29 years. We have two sons and two daughters and wonderful daughters-in-law and sons-in-law. I was the youngest of three siblings. I have nine wonderful grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, whom I adore.

#### What hobbies do you enjoy?

I enjoy watching baseball and football, working in my garden, reading historical fiction and crafting.