

Lucas County Retired Teachers Association

The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 48, Issue 3

May 2019

NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 7, 2019
10:00am

In 2018 LCRTA donated 1,000 children's books to **Right to Read**. Can we do it again?? Can we **bring more??** This year we need to bring **1,100 books** to the **May 23rd luncheon** at the Radisson so that our 12th year of giving books will be our greatest year ever!

REMEMBER—>Books for RIGHT TO READ



50/50 RAFFLE MARCH WINNERS

Kathy Norris—\$90

Dr. Robin Rayfield—\$90
***Dr. Rayfield donated his winnings to The Aurora Project which in turn provided meals to 2 families

Georgia Martin—Basket

Please bring \$1, \$5 or \$10 bills to purchase tickets & you must be PRESENT to win

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE —Rhea Halloran

There was an article in the Sunday April 14 Toledo Blade Page of Opinions written by David Shribman. The article was titled "A profile in Courage."

The article recalled an essay written by the winner for membership in the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation in the year 2000. This article is as timely today as it was

then. It does not matter what your political leanings are, this article holds true for most of us. The following quotations from the essay are especially revealing:

"Our future is at risk due to a troubling tendency towards cynicism among voters and elected officials. The successful resolution of every issue before

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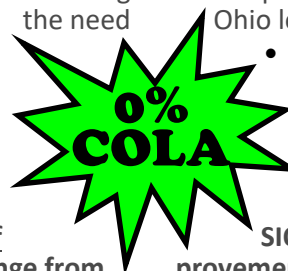
A MUST READ FOR MEMBERS: COLA UPDATE

Dr. Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of the Ohio Retired Teacher Association (ORTA), came to the LCRTA October 2, 2018 board meeting to answer questions about the status of our COLA. After hearing Dr. Rayfield speak, the board decided that he should be the guest speaker for the March 28th lunch at the Toledo Country Club. The following article contains **information** from Dr. Rayfield's presentation that the board feels **all members should read**.

- Current STRS Board Funding Policy states that the Board is committed to achieving **100% Funding Status [before funding a COLA]**.
- Currently STRS is at 77% funding status. Historically, STRS Funding Status has been between 80% and 90%. Current projection is that STRS will reach 100% in **17.4 years**.
- ORTA is working toward changing the current philosophy regarding STRS funding policy to be a policy that would 'balance' the goals of achieving 100% funding status and the need for retirees to receive increases in their pension.
- ORTA has constantly **challenged the loss of COLA**. Prior to the decision by STRS to eliminate COLA, **ORTA lobbied the Board of Trustees resulting in a change from eliminating to suspending COLA**.
- COLA will be revisited in 2022 or

sooner. However, a loss of COLA for 5 years is unacceptable to ORTA.

- ORTA has viewed the 'suspension of COLA' as a **promise that was broken**.
- ORTA believes the STRS system can be strengthened over time without placing the burden of strengthening the system solely **on the back of retirees**.
- ORTA supports strengthening the STRS system by seeking a Pathway to COLA that includes reasonable measures such as increasing employer contributions to the system. Employers have been at 14% for over 35 years. Meanwhile active contributors have witnessed a 40% increase!
- ORTA suggests that a 1/4 of 1% increase in employer contributions each year over 10 years could strengthen the system without placing undue burden on local school districts.
- ORTA speaks at STRS Board meetings describing the impact of the loss of COLA and Seeking a Pathway to COLA.
- ORTA speaks directly with influential Ohio legislators.



- **REMEMBER—>**ORTA's advocacy includes a voice at the STRS building level, the Ohio Statehouse, and the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C. **ORTA's MISSION** is the **protection and improvement of STRS retiree pensions**. **Joining ORTA adds your voice in our cry for financial justice!**

Thursday, May 23, 2019

LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)
Radisson at UTMC
 (3100 Glendale, Toledo)

PROGRAM—Dr. Randa Mansour Shousher,
Audiologist

CHOICES OF ENTRÉE ARE:

- #1 **Baked Chicken Breast** served with a bechamel sauce, topped with Gouda cheese and Bacon, mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- #2 **London Broil** served with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes & fresh vegetables
- #3 **Eat Right Pasta—Gluten-free Pasta** tossed with olive oil, spinach, peppers, onion, tomatoes & asparagus

Entrée served with:
 Garden salad, Rolls & butter
 Cupcakes
 Coffee, Hot & Iced Tea

→ **COST — \$20.50** ←

Reservations due by Wednesday, May 15

Please complete the reservation form at right and include with your check payable to LCRTA

**Please. We're Sorry But...
 NO SUBSTITUTIONS can be honored.**



LUNCHEON SPEAKER

With more than 38 years of experience, Dr. Randa M Shousher specializes in audiology. She is a specialist in evaluation and rehabilitation of those whose communication disorders center in hearing function. In addition to her work as a physician, Dr. Mansour Shousher is an active philanthropist. She serves as an active board member for the Toledo Hospital Foundation, the Cen-

ter for Arab American Philanthropy, and American Near East Refugee Aid where she works to service the hearing impaired refugees in the Middle East. Dr. Mansour-Shousher recently gave 3 year-old Palestinian refugee, Ammar El-Ali, a life-changing gift: an operation that provided Ammar with the ability to hear for the first time in his young life.

Dr. Shousher graduated in 1981 from U of Michigan with a Master of Science, Audiology. In 2005 she graduated with honors from Arizona School of Health as a Doctor of Audiology.

MAY 23, 2019 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

I will attend the luncheon at Radisson at UTMC

NAME: _____ Choice # _____

NAME: _____ Choice # _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____

TOTAL: (**\$20.50 X Number Attending**) \$ _____

Reservations are due by **May 15**. Please mail to:

Robert Fetter
 7803 Shaftesbury
 Sylvania, OH 43560



MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LCRTA

DIRECTIONS—RADISSON at UTMC

Located on UTMC campus

Off Glendale, turn north on MUOT Boulevard

- Following MUOT Boulevard, jog left (West) onto West Medical Loop
- Passing Dana Drive, Radisson is on right (East)

Off Arlington, turn South on West Medical Loop

- Following West Medical Loop & passing Transverse Drive, Radisson is on left (East)

The Radisson is gifting our 50/50 with TWO FREE DINNERS at the Radisson's Restaurant. Sooo...get your 50/50 tickets at the May 23rd luncheon!!

2019 LUNCHEONS & DONATION LIST—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

DATE	LOCATION	CHARITY	WISH LIST
MAY 23	RADISSON UTMC	RIGHT TO READ	Children's books
SEPTEMBER 26	STONE OAK C. C.	EAST TOLEDO FAMILY CENTER	Arts and crafts supplies, tissues, wipes, paper towels
OCTOBER 24	INVERNESS C. C.	LEADING FAMILIES HOME	Cleaning products, new towels, paper products, pillows
DECEMBER 5	THE TOLEDO CLUB	CHILDREN SERVICES	Stuffed animals, dolls, trucks/cars

2019 LCRTA and/or ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Year Retired: _____ School served: _____

LCRTA DUES: _____ Yearly _____ Life
 \$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**



MISSED THE DEADLINE?

Memberships in ORTA & LCRTA
EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2018

So, if you haven't already...
RENEW NOW for 2019
 by completing the above
Membership Form

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS or
 CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS??**
 Phone Kathy Benya at: 419.843.2480
 Email her at: kathybenya@gmail.com

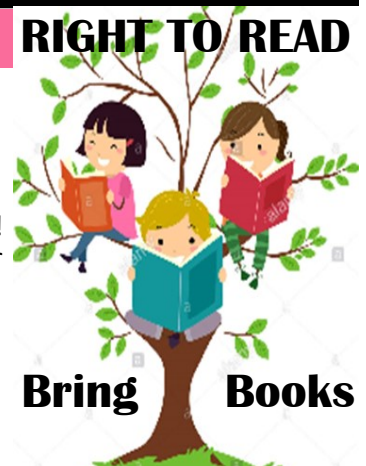
MARCH LUNCHEON EVALUATION — Doris Weiss

All was lovely! The LCRTA luncheon and meeting was held at The Toledo Country Club Thursday, March 28, 2019 with 110 members and guests attending. The majority of members had positive comments about the facility, food, and speaker. Denise Fox of the Aurora Project accepted our gifts and contributions to the charity. Our guest speaker, Dr. Robin Rayfield, Executive Director ORTA, explained STRS reasoning for no COLA for many years. Some of the comments were:

- Best luncheon in years!
- Enjoyed quiche! Hot food!

- Pork lunch was excellent.
- Great cake and coffee!
- The facility was very nice.
- It makes you think spring!
- Beautiful view & place for luncheon.
- Super presentation! Enlightening speaker.
- Wow! Dr. Rayfield gave me Interesting info.

RIGHT TO READ



President's Message —continued from page 1

us depends on the fundamental question of public integrity."

"Cynicism...is perhaps the greatest threat to the continued success of the American political system. Cynical candidates have developed an ability to out-grow their convictions in order to win power. Cynical citizens have given up on the election process, going to the polls at one of the lowest rates in the democratic world." "Fortunately for the political process, there remain a number of



committed individuals who are steadfast enough in their beliefs to run for office to benefit their fellow Americans. Such people are willing to eschew political and personal comfort and convenience because they believe they can make a difference."

Mr. Shribmans states: the essay winner's personal assurance that a young person would choose a life of public service, that too has been redeemed. That 19 year old essay was written by the mayor of South Bend Indiana, and current Democrat candidate for President, Pete Buttigieg. One of his rivals is the subject of his winning entry. That rival is Bernie Sanders.

2019 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718
Secretary—Marion Boyer: 419.824.6539
Corresponding Secretary—Kathleen Brunt: 734.856.3737
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Community Participation—Nan Fetter: 419.885.1692
Courtesy—Pauline LoCascio: 419.779.1569
Evaluations—Doris Weiss: 419.874.2275
Legislative—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071
Lunch Reservations—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511
Or 419.351.2601
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Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511
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Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.841.2593
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Judy Egan

THE SLATE

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

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A MUST READ FOR MEMBERS: COLA UPDATE SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 1

SPRING DRIVING, TUNE-UP, AND MAINTENANCE TIPS—Jeannine Petcoff

Winter can be brutal on cars. Freezing temperatures, snow, ice, salt, and pot holes take a toll on our trustworthy means of transportation. How do you make sure everything is well-oiled, well-maintained, worry-free, and ready to go? Hopefully the following tips will help your vehicle run efficiently whatever your destination.



5. Check **under the hood**. Check your oil, coolant, brake, power-steering, transmission and windshield-wiper fluid levels. Check the air filter. Also check belts and hoses for cracks, blisters, splits, and fraying.

6. Check your **brakes** especially if you hear grinding noises, feel unusual vibrations, or your vehicle pulls to one side when you apply them.

7. Check for **recalls**. Go to www.nhtsa.gov/recalls to see if there have been any recalls. You will need your vehicle's VIN number.

8. Check your **glove box**. Make sure you have up-to-date registration and insurance paperwork.

9. Lastly, **reduce distracted driving**. Program all destinations and preset radios and other technologies **BEFORE** you hit the road.

More detailed information is available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Safe travels!

1. Get a **car wash**. Remove winter's dirt and grime not only from the top and sides but also from the undercarriage.
2. Check and rotate your **tires**. When your tires are cold, check your tire's inflation pressure. Check the side-walls for any cracks, cuts, or bulges. If you can see the top of Abe's head when you insert a penny between the tread, you need new tires.
3. Check your **lights**. Check your headlights, tail lights, brake lights, turn signals, license plate light, and your interior lights.
4. Check your **wiper blades** for wear, tear, and how well they clear the windshield. Windshield wiper blades usually last about six months.