

The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 49, Issue 3

May 2020

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Virtually on May 5th
10:00

A shout-out to LCRTA MEMBERS who attended all six luncheons in 2019.

They are:

- Sheryl Bibish
- Sharon Bluni
- Joette Boyd-Randal
- Karol Brown
- Jean Buckley
- Dianne Busson
- W. Odell Chancy
- Georgianne Czerniak
- Judy Dieball
- Denise Frazier
- Flo Fuerst
- Joanne Henningsen
- Carol Kumpe
- Annette Lee
- Phyllis Lee
- Mary Lynn Muntz
- Marcia Nagy
- Kathy Norris
- Susan Ochs
- Barbara Skinner
- Mary Twining
- Diane White
- Doreen Younts

50/50 RAFFLE
MARCH, APRIL, MAY
WINNERS

No Winners Due to
CANCELLATION
of
SPRING
Luncheons

Join us in the Fall for something special

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

Fred Rogers—“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” He continued: “To this day, especially in times of ‘disaster,’ I remember my mother’s words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are so many helpers—so many caring people in this world.” Mr. Rogers shared this quotation and remembrance from his childhood in the hours after the tragic school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut. I believe Mr. Rogers’ words are so applicable and helpful during these scary times of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic.



On a personal note, I have experienced “helpers” this week! I recently returned from a trip, so I am self-quarantining to keep others safe. One friend dropped off hand-sewn facemasks and a delicious piece of bundt cake, a neighbor left in my door homemade *cassatelle* (an Easter tradition passed down from her grandmother) and a distant relative offered to go grocery shopping for me. Once I am out of quarantine, I plan to donate much-needed plasma and help with my church’s feeding ministries. I will try to think of other ways that I can help those in need. **(If you have a need, please contact me at: 419.344.7071.)**

It is difficult to avoid watching the President and Governor’s press conferences and the daily news reports. I personally found that my anxiety was increasing from all of the news coverage, so I began to DVR the evening news, but when viewing I

fast forward to the last 3–5 minutes. This is when the heart-warming stories are featured—those of miraculous recovery from the virus, health care workers doing amazing acts, first responders going above and beyond, communities reaching out to neighbors, etc. These stories give me hope and bring a smile and often, tears to my eyes.

Due to the uncertainty of the Governor’s orders and our desire to keep everyone safe and healthy, we have no choice but to **cancel our May 21st luncheon**. This was a tough decision for your board to make, as we all so enjoy the meal, the beautiful venues, the speakers and most im-

portantly, the companionship of gathering with our fellow Lucas County Retired Teacher members! Regrettably this is the last luncheon for this season! Please mark your calendars for our **September 24, 2020 luncheon at Stone Oak Country Club**.

There are so many people who need prayers and healing thoughts. Our hearts go out to all health care providers, first responders, grocery store personnel, TARTA drivers and all those who provide services and put us first, and to their family members as well. Millions of people are unemployed and will experience economic hardship for years to come. My heart aches for students and teachers who are missing each other during this time of separation. One good thing I believe that has already come out of this pandemic is a ballooning appreciation for teachers.

Multitudes of people are reaching

CANCELLED

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
LCRTA LUNCHEON at Radisson Hotel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Continued

out to others with care, concern and love. Some of your LCRTA board members are making masks for first responders, friends, family, nursing home patients, etc. I hope that you are staying safe and keeping in touch with family and friends virtually or via good old-fashioned phone conversations. My wish is for all of us to gather again in the fall and until that time, for all of you to stay well and enjoy your summers.

TORNADO PREPARED?—Continued

Most tornado deaths are attributed to the lack of adequate shelter and not taking shelter when warnings are given. Advances in weather technology, warning methods, and prediction accuracy have helped to decrease the number of tornado fatalities as well as allow us an **average of 13 minutes to get to safe shelter** before a tornado strikes. Even so, Michigan averages 18 tornadoes per year while Ohio averages 5 to 10.

A tornado can occur at any time and in any place and come from any direction. So the question remains, are you tornado prepared? **Do you have a plan, a safe place, and do you know what to do?** Hopefully your answer is yes!

COVID-19 & COMPUTER SCAMS

The threat of COVID-19 means a surge in people desperate for the most up-to-date information. This is exactly when **phishing** scams [attempts to trick people with email, text message, phone call or fake website with goal of getting people to send money, or to share sensitive information, or to download **malware** (**malware** is a contraction of *malicious software*--any software that was written with the intent of damaging devices, stealing data, etc.)) tend to work best.

Okay, but what's coronavirus malware? In a nutshell, it's a way of using the COVID-19 crisis to pretend to offer information or services which are often filled with malware designed to hurt or steal information/money from people. To avoid being a victim follow these computer usage guidelines:

1. **Use only well-known websites with good reputations**
2. **Don't click on links or attachments in unknown emails**
4. **Think about how message/information has been shared**
 Facebook posts can be written, altered and distributed by anyone. Remember, multiple likes and shares do not mean the information is factual.
5. **Do NOT purchase COVID-19 tests/products on-line**
6. **Protect your Medicare information**

A reliable and trusted source to use when looking for COVID-19 advice, precautions, and updates:

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/) (CDC)

Information from: https://www.avg.com/en/signal/coronavirus-malware?utm_content=361381&utm_term=139445757_2914_18&utm_medium=email&utm_source=sfmc&utm_campaign=c_oo_alac_a_a_20q1_jj_new_s03avg

REVISING LUNCHEON DONATIONS—Nan Fetter

LCRTA recently celebrated 10 years of giving to the people of Lucas County. And while we haven't been able to have any lunches in the first part of 2020, we are going to keep on giving. The Board is looking at ways to provide some financial aid to the



charities we would have hosted in March (Mom's House), April (Family House of Toledo), and May (Right to Read). We are all looking for normalcy. Helping the children of Lucas County is what we have been doing and what we will continue to do. There is no social distancing when it comes to gifts from the heart.

2020 LUNCHEONS & DONATION LIST—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

DATE	LOCATION	CHARITY	WISH LIST
SEPTEMBER 24	STONE OAK CC	BETHANY HOUSE	WOMEN'S DEODORANT, RAZORS, COMBS, BRUSHES, BODY WASH, TOILET BOWL/BRUSH CLEANER, 13 & 33 GALLON TRASH BAGS, BABY WIPES, SIZE 3, 4, 5 DIAPERS
October 29	Inverness CC	Leading Families Home	Cleaning products, pillows, paper products, new towels/wash cloths
December 10	The Toledo Club	Children Services	Stuffed animals, dolls, trucks/cars

2020 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

DON'T MISS ANY OF OUR 2020 EVENTS!

Memberships in ORTA and LCRTA EXPIRED DECEMBER 31, 2019

RENEW now for 2020 by completing the above Membership Form

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

*Please update Kathy with new information

APRIL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS—Susan Santoro

Due to the ban on gatherings and the stay-at-home order, the LCRTA Board did not meet in April. We will conduct board business virtually in May.

EDITED VERSION OF LETTER FROM ORTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 10, 2020

Greetings ORTA Leaders,

I wanted to reach out to each chapter and provide a brief update as to what is going on at the ORTA office. ORTA staff is working from home. Alissa Burton, Mia McLean and I are answering the ORTA phones from our homes. I am going into the office a couple times each week to collect mail, pay bills, etc. allowing the operations to keep going forward at ORTA .

STRS has cancelled its April meeting so I am unable to provide any STRS news.

The executive committee did meet in March and will meet via conference call on April 13. We are watching the investment markets closely and working with the investment people that manage the ORTA investment accounts. Our asset allocations for our investments have been positioned into a more defensive position to protect our portfolio.

As we all practice social distancing, please know that ORTA remains active in our advocacy efforts and ORTA remains ready to assist each chapter in whatever ways we are able. Times like these remind us of what is important, the health of our friends and family, our close friends and fellow retirees. Alissa is able to assist you with your chapter's website and Mia is available to assist with memberships. Feel free to call me on my cell with any questions that you may have (419.583.6924). Also, remember to check the ORTA website at www.orta.org. We have made a few changes recently. Be sure to check out the ORTA Advocacy tab on our website.

Until we are able to be more active and meet with each other again, stay safe and well!

Robin Rayfield (Executive Director ORTA)

2020 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071
Secretary—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603
Corresponding Secretary—Kathleen Brunt: 734.856.3737
Treasurer—Nancy Wiegand: 419.866.1980
Budget/Finance—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718
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
Membership—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480
Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511
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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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ARE YOU TORNADO PREPARED?—Jeannine Petcoff

You practiced tornado drills every spring when you were a teacher with a classroom full of students, but what about home? Do you have a plan, a safe place to go, and do you know what to do?

With the earliest spring in 124 years and no El Niño or La Niña to influence our weather systems, meteorologists are predicting a more “spurting” and slightly more active than average tornado season this year. Typically tornado season lasts from April through November, but for us living in the Midwest and part of tornado alley, our greatest risk comes in June and July when severe thunderstorms moving from the southwest to the northeast spawn tornadoes that follow the path of their parent thunderstorm.

Preparation is key to tornado survival so plan ahead. Have you identified your home’s safe place? Is it a basement, safe room, storm cellar, bathroom, hallway or other small interior room away from windows, doors, and outside walls? Do you have emergency supplies in your safe place or at least readily available so they can be grabbed quickly? Your basic emergency supplies should include a **NOAA weather radio programmed for your specific area, flashlight, extra batteries, whistle, blankets, and possibly a cell phone.** (In times of disaster, phone systems are often down so save cell phone use for emergencies only. Use



text messaging or social media to communicate.)

Be aware of weather forecasts. A tornado **WATCH** means a tornado is possible. Knowing a little Ohio county geography might be helpful when power outages eliminate TV storm coverage and **weather radio provides your only reliable means of monitoring the tornado’s approach.** (If you think of Lucas county as the center of a clock, Monroe county is to our north in the 12 o’clock position, Lake Erie is to our east in the 2 o’clock position, Ottawa county is southeast in the 4 o’clock position, Wood county is south in the 6 o’clock position, Henry county is southwest in the 8 o’clock position, Fulton county is to our west in the 10 o’clock position, and Lenawee county is northwest in the 11 o’clock position.)

When a tornado **WARNING** is issued **take shelter immediately! Danger is imminent!** A tornado is occurring or will occur soon. Green colored skies, fast moving clouds, hail, flying debris, the roar of a train are additional warning signs that you need to be in your safe place crouched down on your knees with arms, blankets, and as much protection as possible covering your neck and head. Stay sheltered in place monitoring your weather radio for updates, current emergency information, and instructions.

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