

The Slate

Affiliated with ORTA

Issue 3

LCRTA.WEBBLY.COM

May 2026

NEXT BOARD MEETING May 11, 2026

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—

Arlene Tucker

Governor Mike DeWine signed the Biennial Budget Bill, **HB 96**, on June 25, 2025. This bill contained provisions that **directly affect the STRS Retirement Board**. Before HB 96, the STRS Retirement Board was comprised of seven elected members and 4 appointed members. The bill shrinks the overall number of elected members by reducing the number of contributing teachers from five to two and the number of retired teachers from two to one. The total number of elected members is now three. The legislation changes the composition by adding four more appointed members, effective September 28, 2025, and then gradually eliminating four elected positions. By 2028, the STRS Board will have eight appointees and just three elected members under this bill.



On October 15, 2025, the Franklin County Common Pleas Court issued a preliminary **injunction preventing the reduction of elected Board members from seven to three**. Due to the injunction, the changes to the law governing the Board's membership have not been implemented.

Now comes **HB 719**, introduced to the House on February 25, 2026. This bill, if passed, will restore specific provisions of the law governing the Retirement Board that existed before HB 96. It also eliminates the appointed and elected Board members' entitlement to health care benefits for their service on the Board. Financial compensation would be

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature."

—Rachel Carson

Spring has definitely "Sprung!" Four years ago this month, I made a personal summer "to do" list and shared it in *The Slate*. One task was to visit all 19 Toledo area Metroparks. I did not accomplish this goal so I am going to tackle it again. There is vast research about the benefits of spending time outdoors. Time in nature improves both physical and mental health, and even small amounts (2 hours per week) can make a measurable difference.

For older adults, the impact is even stronger because it supports mobility, independence, mood and cognitive health. Nature is one of the most effective, low-cost ways to reduce stress. Being outside helps keep the brain sharper longer. Outdoor time naturally encourages movement and that's huge for aging well. An added

bonus is vitamin D exposure which supports bone health. Natural light resets your body's clock. You do not need to "hike" every Metropark—you can take a short walk in a local park and stop to enjoy nature from a bench. Perhaps you love gardening or picnics. Even 10-15 minutes per day can help. I live near the Sylvania River Trail and I love to spend time on it. Sometimes I just sit on a bench and listen to a podcast, playlist, or the birds.

I have wonderful news to share—LCRTA has a new board member, Arlene Tucker, who will keep us updated on legislative issues. Welcome!

We would love to fill the room at Highland Meadows Golf Club on Tuesday, May 19th. I challenge you all to invite a friend or contact a member whom you have not seen at luncheons lately.



A GIVING PLACE—Pauline LoCascio

We are fortunate to have six major community partners that we support throughout the year. We are so pleased to welcome Isaiah 117 House to our family of charities.

Isaiah 117 House exists to support children entering the foster care system as they await placement with a foster or kinship family. Their mission is three-fold: 1. To **reduce** trauma for children during this critical transition. 2. To **lighten** the load for caseworkers. 3. To **support** foster and kinship families by providing essential items to ease placement.

Located in Oregon, OH, this newly built home, made possible through generous local donations, offers a warm, welcoming, home-like environment for children birth to age 18. Rather than waiting in an office, children are brought to a safe, comfortable space cared for by trained volunteers. During their stay,

they receive 3-5 days' worth of clothing, hygiene products, and comfort items. The home also provides beds for rest, a kitchen for meals, and bathrooms for personal care, meeting both physical and emotional needs during a difficult time.

When Children's Services identifies a child in need, a caseworker is assigned and a referral is made to Isaiah 117 House, allowing the child to transition into a supportive environment while awaiting placement.

In Lucas County there are 800-1,000 children in foster care and only 150 licensed foster homes. Isaiah 117 House anticipates serving 30-50 children each month. Through programs like "Bin Buddies," the home stays stocked with essential items including clothing, hygiene products, stuffed animals, food, bedding, socks, shoes,



Continued on page 3

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)

Highland Meadows Golf Club

7455 Erie Street, Sylvania

PROGRAM: Nigel Burgoine, Artistic Director

ENTRÉE CHOICES:

- #1 Chicken Marsala (Pan seared chicken breast topped with classic Marsala sauce)
- #2 Roasted Pork Loin (Roasted with an apple brandy cream sauce)
- #3 Eggplant Parmesan (Parmesan encrusted, topped with marinara)

Entrée served with:

Garden salad with croutons,
 Green beans almondine, Au Gratin potatoes,
 Roll/butter, "Sweet Land of Liberty" cupcake,
 Beverage bar

COST — \$30.00 (includes meal & service charge)

Reservations due: **Tuesday, May 5**

- Please complete reservation form at right & include with **check payable to LCRTA**
- **Cash bar available**
- No valet; no stairs, no ramps; **easy entry**
- We're Sorry, but...**NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NO REFUNDS & DO NOT CALL VENUE, PLEASE**



PROGRAM: Nigel Burgoine—Tutus, Touring & Other Terrors!

Our speaker in May will entertain you with stories about the hidden world of Ballet—as he lived it. **Nigel Burgoine** was a principal dancer, performing on stages all over the world. He is the former Artistic Director of Ballet Theatre of Toledo. He will share his special program *Tutus, Touring, and other Terrors!*

MAY 19, 2026 LUNCHEON RESERVATION
 I will attend the luncheon at Highland Meadows Golf Club
 NAME: _____ Choice # _____
 NAME: _____ Choice # _____
 NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____
 TOTAL: (\$30 X Number Attending) \$ _____

Reservations **MUST** be received by **Tuesday, May 5**

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 (H)

Reservations received AFTER May 5 CANNOT be honored

DIRECTIONS To Highland Meadows
 (Allow extra time for construction)
 → North on Centennial to East on Erie
 OR
 → North on Holland/Sylvania to West on Main & around to West on Erie

Venue DOES NOT OPEN until 11:00 AM

2026 LUNCHEONS—Mark your calendars

DATE	LOCATION	PARTNER	NEEDS
(T) May 19	Highland Meadows	Isaiah 117 House	Hygiene products, Teen clothing (not hoodies) all sizes, Teen PJs - adult sizes, Sneakers - all sizes & genders, Kids' shorts - sizes 6X-14/16, Bralettes/Camis XS-L, Bras - sizes 32-36 A-C, Gift cards for WalMart, Kroger, Target, Shoe Carnival, Dick's Sporting Goods, any fast food

FALL LUNCHEONS
 (W) 23 Sep Stone Oak Country Club (Th) 29 Oct Inverness Club (W) 9 Dec Toledo Country Club

Theme of today's luncheon: "America 250" — In keeping with America's birthday celebrations, we encourage guests to wear red, white, & blue



For those wishing to join LCRTA, please print & complete 2026 LCRTA and/or ORTA MEMBERSHIP FORM available at:

LCRTA.WEEBLY.COM

FREE 50/50 TICKETS

WHEN YOU BRING A FRIEND, WHO JOINS LCRTA, TO LUNCH

CHANGE OF ADDRESS or EMAIL ADDRESS

Text/Call Ruthann Manders at: 419.343.3346
Email Ruthann at: rlsmanders@gmail.com

DO YOU KNOW ME?

LCRTA has **lost touch** with some of our lifetime members. They may have moved or even passed away. We don't know. Do you? **Can you help us?** If you have information such as contact details, knowledge of death, etc. about any of the members below, please contact LCRTA Treasurer:

Pat Price at 419-350-1650 or ppretire17@gmail.com

- Avonelle Acre
- Edwin Bloedow
- Joyce G. Brown

- Sally A. Dunn (Waite)
- Helen Gordon
- Genetta Jordan
- Marilyn Mizek
- Bonita S. Murray (Eastside Central)
- Anna May Price (Olney)
- Gertrude Shanteau
- Virginia M. Toth (Middletown)



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—continued from page 1

capped at \$2,400 yearly to which each appointed and elected Board member is entitled for attending regular Board meetings. This bill was passed to the House Committee on Public Insurance and Pensions on March 4, 2026. **It has a long way to go.**

It is imperative that the Ohio legislators hear from us! ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Assoc.) is encouraging all to

contact their state Senator and Representative and urge them to support HB 719 and Ohio's retired teachers. Emphasize STRS members do not receive guaranteed inflation protections, despite being promised annual cost-of-living increases. Social Security recipients DO receive COLA, and benefits are not taxable in Ohio. STRS benefits ARE taxed.

To find your legislator: www.legislature.ohio.gov

A GIVING PLACE—continued from page 1

and backpacks. They also rely on gift card donations from retailers to support ongoing needs. (see complete list on page 2). We hope you will join us at our May 19th luncheon to meet Jennifer Bohnsack from Isaiah 117 House who will share news about this incredible organization and its impact in our community.

APRIL EVALUATION—Jeanene Pifer

- Wonderful service, excellent food, & beautiful facility—love golf cart rides from parking lot.
- Social Security speaker was super informative, knowledgeable, so engaging, & made a complex subject understandable.
- Both speakers (Mom's/Laurie's House & Social Security) were exceptional. I learned much.
- Great Meeting at Stone Oak!!!

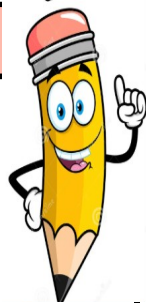


APRIL WINNERS

- Debbie Sehmeyer—\$90
- Comfort Afori-Akyeah—\$90
- Nancy Turman—Basket
- Theresa Eigensee—Wine Package

JUST FOR YOU!

- Please consider a donation, perhaps to honor an educator, & designate it to the LCRTA Scholarship Fund. We would like to offer a 4th scholarship in the fall & need donations.
- Please consider a donation (\$12/yr) to cover the **cost of your printed/mailed Slate.**
- Life members, Please consider a donation to LCRTA **operating expenses.**
- LCRTA has a group on Facebook called "Lucas County Retired Teachers," Nancy Dyer, administrator. **Check it out!!**



FYI—Judy Jones' Library Services now posted on our website: LCRTA.weebly.com

2025 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071
Recording Secretary—Debbi Alexander: 419.345.3513
Corresponding Secretary—Pat Holz: 419.740.2274
Budget/Finance—Nancy Wiegand: 419.866.1980
Treasurer—Pat Price: 419.350.1650
Comm. Partnerships—Pauline LoCascio: 419.779.1569
Evaluations—Jeanene Pifer: 419.344.4006
Hospitality—Helen Lazette
Legislative—Arlene Tucker: 419-345-6550
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THE SLATE

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Toledo's "MUST SEE & DO" Tourist Guide—Jeannine Petcoff

Summer & its promises of sun, fun, & warmer weather will soon be upon us. Occasionally, too, something known as “**senior boredom**” may sneak in & make you wish for something to do that is a bit different, a little exciting, not too extravagant, & not too expensive. Well, have you ever thought of breaking your boredom by visiting Toledo as a “tourist?” Toledo visitor guides offer an interesting list of things Glass City visitors “**must see & do.**”

1. **Fifth Third Field**—an award winning facility & home to Toledo Mud Hens baseball
2. **Fort Meigs**—Ohio's War of 1812 Battlefield
3. **Glass City River Wall**—the largest mural in the country
4. **Imagination Station**—Toledo's non-profit museum & science center
5. **Maumee Bay Brewing Co.**—Toledo's original craft brewery
6. **National Museum of the Great Lakes**—interactive museum telling the history & stories of the Great Lakes
7. **Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral**—features stunning architecture & a basilica floor plan
8. **The Sandpiper & Glass City Pearl**—cruises of Lake Erie & Maumee Bay
9. **Toledo Farmers' Market**—features seasonal produce from local farmers
10. **Toledo Firefighters' Museum**—showcases historic alarm systems & the role of dalmatians
11. **Toledo-Lucas County Public Library** (downtown facility) —noted for its architecture & mural
12. **Toledo Botanical Gardens**—offers leisurely paved walking paths
13. **Oak Openings Preserve**—stunning scenery & bird haven
14. **Providence Metropark**—Canal Experience with mule drawn boat rides & Isaac Ludwig Mill
15. **Wildwood Preserve & Manor House**—action track chairs & Manor House tours available
16. **Toledo Museum of Art & Glass Pavilion**—nationally known for its diverse collections
17. **Toledo Symphony Orchestra**—provides music education & concerts at local venues
18. **Toledo Zoo & Aquarium**—ranked among nation's best
19. **The Valentine Theater**—an historic theater offering varied productions
20. **Woodlawn Cemetery & Arboretum**—rural cemetery design, elaborate mausoleums, Bessie Ludwig's Easy Chair, & birding hot spot

There's the list. Now here is the **challenge**. How many of Toledo's tourist attractions can you visit this summer? Alone, with a friend or group of friends, break “senior boredom” & enjoy the “**must see & do**” sites of a tourist visiting Ohio's fourth largest city. Welcome to Toledo!

HOW CAREFULLY DO YOU READ?
You know what to do to enter contest

