

# The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 50, Issue 6

October 2021

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**  
October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00

## LCRTA NEEDS YOU! PUBLIC RELATIONS POSITION

Do you have a computer and internet? Do you have an extra hour or two 6 months of each year? **LCRTA needs you!** We need someone to send press releases to local print publications. The information will be sent to you, so you only need to forward it. We have the contact information. You can do it all via email or online via web pages. This is **not** a board position so no extra meetings to attend. If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact **Susan Santoro** @419-344-7071 or [scsantoro711@gmail.com](mailto:scsantoro711@gmail.com)  
**THANKS!!!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

As I am composing this, we are getting ready to gather for our luncheon for the first time since December 2019. We are not out of the woods, but we are together in the woods!

I know some of you are not yet comfortable gathering in person. Your LCRTA board is working with venues to try to make it safe. If you did not join us for the September luncheon, I hope you will consider attending the **November 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon at the Inverness Club!**

LCRTA continues to support our community partners. A \$100 donation was made to the Boys and Girls Club for the purchase of school supplies. They were very appreciative.

We still welcome **monetary donations of any amount to LCRTA** so

that we can continue to support our community organizations and meet our operating expenses. Postage and printing costs have increased and we receive no annual income from our life members. Checks made out to LCRTA can be mailed to LCRTA Treasurer; c/o Area Office on Aging, 2155 Arlington Ave; Toledo OH 43609 or brought to the November luncheon. Thank you!

There is much useful information in this issue of the Slate and on our website: <https://lcrta.weebly.com/>, which is up-to-date and contains past issues of the Slate. If you are not able to attend luncheons, these are two important ways for you to feel connected to YOUR LCRTA. Stay well and I hope to see many of you on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.



## LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media platforms have become fodder for numerous news articles. Most of these articles address negative aspects. There have been concerns about

misinformation, identity theft, bullying and too many advertisements. I am, in no way, downplaying any of these negative uses, but I want to share a story that restores my faith

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## FAMILY HOUSE OF TOLEDO—Pauline LoCascio

Fall is my favorite time of year. The colors, the cool weather and the family time all make me thankful for all that I have in my life. It also brings to mind my favorite Beatles song "Imagine" by John Lennon. In his song, he wants us to imagine a world where we all live as one.

I thought of our Community Partner for November, Family House, and I tried to imagine what it would be like to be homeless this time of year. For many families this is a reality that can happen overnight. Family House of Toledo is located at 669 Indiana Avenue and is the second largest Family Shelter in Ohio.

Its unique mission is to not separate the family unit, but help them with their immedi-

ate needs of shelter, food, and clothing. Once settled Family House continues to provide vital skills to help clients get back on their feet as a family unit (for over 250 families).

Our community involvement is essential to creating these successful outcomes. So at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> luncheon we will be asking for **cleaning supplies, wipes, bleach, rubber gloves, as well as paper products and brooms.** Cleaning is essential to follow COVID restrictions. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

These gifts are the way we can be part of the community in a very real way. It will help us "Imagine a brotherhood of man."



**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021**

**LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)**

**Inverness Club**

(4601 Dorr Street, Toledo, OH)

**PROGRAM: TYLER PALKA**

**CHOICES OF ENTRÉE ARE:**

- #1 **Chicken Franaise:** Egg Battered Sautéed Chicken Breast with Lemon Wine Butter Sauce
- #2 **Sage Rubbed Roasted Pork Tenderloin:** Apple Shallot Demi Glace
- #3 **Roasted Vegetable Strudel:** Rice Pilaf and Red Pepper Sauce

**Entrée served with:**

House Garden Salad  
 Chef's selected Starch & Vegetable  
 Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce  
 Rolls & Whipped Butter, Coffee, Tea, Iced Tea

**COST — \$25.75**

Reservations due: **Tuesday, October 26**

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

- ★ **We're Sorry, But NO SUBSTITUTIONS**
- ★ **Please, invite a friend!**
- ★ ***In order to ensure the safety of our guests and vendors, we are asking that, if you have chosen not to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you respectfully decline our invitation to attend.***

**NOTE: Servers are fully vaccinated and/or masked**

**November 2, 2021 LUNCHEON RESERVATION**

I will attend the luncheon at Inverness Club

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

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

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

TOTAL: (\$25.75 X Number Attending) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations are due **by October 26** Please mail to:

Jeannine Petcoff  
 15139 Todd Road  
 Petersburg, MI 49270

**Mail EARLY!!!**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO LCRTA**

**DIRECTIONS TO INVERNESS CLUB**

**4601 Dorr Street Between Byrne & Reynolds  
 on the south side of Dorr**

**LUNCHEON SPEAKER—TYLER PALKA**

Tyler, a proud grandson of Rhea Halloran, graduated high school from Saline High School in Saline, MI in 2013. He continued on to Saginaw Valley State University on a scholarship to play division 2 football, later transferring to Gannon University in Erie, PA to continue the football path. Tyler graduated from Gannon in 2018 with a major in secondary education with a focus in Social Studies. Directly after student teaching in Erie, PA, he was brought into pre-season camp with the Pittsburgh Steelers of the NFL. Tyler continued on to play in the Canadian Football League, Arena Football League, and most recently the XFL (a professional American football league). His career in pro-football has opened up additional opportunities, including, most recently, earning roles as a stunt actor and character parts in an upcoming movie due in theaters Christmas day, 2021. Tyler is looking forward to sharing his story and explaining how life on and off the field has been shaped by the educators in his family.



**LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

in social media.

Between the ages of five and seven, I lived next door to Becky. We were inseparable, but, unfortunately, her family moved to Florida when we were in second grade. We attempted to stay in touch, which was pretty admirable for primary school aged kids, and, eventually, our friendship was put on the back burner. Becky and I carried on with school, careers, marriage, and life. About two weeks ago, I received a message from long lost Becky. She stated that she had been thinking about me and had started searching on Facebook. In my profile I have included my maiden

name, and basically am just as cute as I was when younger (wink), so Becky was able to find me. We requested one another as friends, and then the most amazing correspondence began.

First, we wrote one another about our memories of our childhood. I was suddenly transported back to childhood in the 1950's. Most of our time was spent outdoors. Becky and I wrote about making leaf houses, riding bikes, playing endlessly with hula hoops, and making chalk drawings on the driveway. She reminded me that we played on stilts, and I remembered that *my dad*

**2022 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 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 2022 EVENTS!**

**RENEW now for 2022**

by completing the above Membership Form

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS or EMAIL ADDRESS**

Call Kathy Benya at: 419.843.2480

Email Kathy at: [kathybenya@gmail.com](mailto:kathybenya@gmail.com)

**LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2**

*made those stilts.* One of Becky's memories was of her playing inside my house. I had my own room (Becky had 3 siblings) and we both lived in very tiny bungalows. She remembered a huge arts and crafts book I had received for Christmas and that I was the "luckiest girl in the country" because I owned that book. Sometimes memories become distorted over time, and I tend to remember the negative incidents in my past. How wonderful to see my childhood through someone else's eyes, and suddenly remember all the "magical" parts of growing up.

Becky and I are writing each other weekly now. We have written in detail about our education and professions. Our career paths could not be more different. Becky is a talented singer and musician who has been honing her skills since high school. She studied music in college and her resume is absolutely fascinating. She was with a "combo" where she performed in lounges throughout Florida and

the United States. Next, she and her husband were employed as entertainers for corporate conventions in the USA and abroad. Can you imagine performing in Monte Carlo or at one of President Bush's Inaugural Balls?

I am so glad that I risked responding to Becky's message. As we write one another, I feel like we are writing a memoir of two little girls from a very small town who led very different lives and now are living happily ever after. Many of my friends have similar stories of finding, via social media, long lost college friends, former colleagues, and even old boyfriends! I know that many of us have spent more time on our computers during the past 18 months. I am so grateful I have the time to rekindle this friendship and, maybe, when this whole Covid mess is over, we can reminiscence and savor this rekindled friendship in person.

*Disclaimer: I am not related to Mark Zuckerberg. I am not employed by or affiliated with any social media organization.*

**FYI LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—Jeanene Pifer**

While dusting your furniture, did you ever think of a question about your retirement fund? Or COLA? Or your insurance? Or some other related topic? Then you think—What's the number? What's the address? To help find answers, please see the information listed below:

- **ORTA (Ohio Retired Teachers Association)**  
 250 East Wilson Bridge Road; Suite 150  
 Worthington, OH 43085  
 614.431.7002

[www.orta.org](http://www.orta.org)

- **AMBA (Association Member Benefits Advisors)**  
 6034 West Courtyard Drive, Suite 300  
 Austin, TX 78730  
 800.258.7041 [www.myambabenefits.info/orta](http://www.myambabenefits.info/orta)
- **STRS (State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio)**  
 275 East Broad Street  
 Columbus, OH 43215  
 888.227.7877 [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)
- **STRS Ohio Watchdogs**  
 For up-to-the-minute investigative articles  
[www.strsohiowatchdogs.com/](http://www.strsohiowatchdogs.com/)

**2021 LUNCHEONS & DONATION LIST—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

**DECEMBER 9 THE TOLEDO CLUB CHILDREN SERVICES Legos, animals, trucks/cars, dolls**

## 2021 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Past President—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Secretary—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Corresponding Secretary—Jo Ascunce: 419.308.2928  
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—Pat Holz: 419.740.2274  
Legislative—Jeanene Pifer: 419.385.6863  
Lunch Reservations—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Or 419.351.2601  
Membership—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Public Relations—  
Scholarship—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603  
Slate Editor/Webmaster—Jane Nawrocki: 419.861.7766  
Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.841.2593  
50/50 Raffle—Wanda Anderson: 419.841.2593  
Judy Egan

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

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### WHO KNEW?—Jeannine Petcoff

In today's world of lock downs, shelter in place, disrupted supply chains, mask, don't mask, it is sometimes hard to find anything that can make you laugh or even bring a smile to your face. Some say trivia can at least bring a "huh" or maybe, with luck, a quiet chuckle. With that in mind, here is an attempt to brighten your day with that needed chuckle or at least a "huh."

Did you know...

- that if your home address is an odd number, you probably live on the south or east side of the street, but if it's an even number you probably live on the north or west side.
- your mail carrier brings you an average of 41 pounds of junk mail a year of which 44% is never opened & only one fourth is recycled.
- over the past years, & in some instances even today, the United State Postal Service has delivered mail via stage-coach, pneumatic tube, ski, Segway, roller skates, dog sled, snowmobile, train, supersonic jet, biplane, helicopter, boat, ferry, hovercraft, bicycle, horseback, mule, & feet.
- for the average family of four, garbage collectors pick up 6,424 pounds of your trash a year.
- if you were to sort through 50 pounds of waste left after all the conventional recycling materials were removed, you would find 10.5 pounds of food waste, 9 pounds of

plastic, 7.5 pounds of paper and cardboard, 5.5 pounds of rubber, leather, & textiles, 4.5 pounds of metal, 4.5 pounds of yard trimmings, 4 pounds of wood, 2.5 pounds of glass, & 2 pounds of "other stuff."

- grass does look greener on the other side of the fence because you view your neighbor's yard at an angle making it more difficult to see the dirt & bare spots.
- the life cycle of a single blade of grass is three to six weeks thus making this year's lawn not the same as last year's.
- if you could use your x-ray vision you'd find concrete sidewalks are typically 4 inches thick, driveways 6 inches thick, & interstate highways 11 inches thick.
- And finally, the button you push at a crosswalk in a major city does nothing because an operable pedestrian crosswalk signal muddles the flow of traffic. Major city traffic signals are set on timing cycles ranging from 60 to 250 seconds. They are based on the ebb, flow, & direction of traffic, but as an added benefit of the timing cycle, it also allows adequate time for safe pedestrian crossing.

Who'd have thought?

Excerpts taken from the book  
**A Walk Around the Block**  
by Spike Carlsen

