

The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 49, Issue 4

September 2020

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Virtually
September 1 at 10:00

COLA UPDATE
For an update on
the lawsuit to
restore our COLA
go to our website:
www.lcrta.weebly.com
Click COLA UPDATE button

**LCRTA SEPTEMBER
24th MEETING
GUEST SPEAKER**
Keep Toledo/Lucas County
Beautiful is dedicated to es-
tablishing greener communi-
ties through environmental
education, litter prevention
and voluntary partnerships.

We are excited to have as
our guest speaker **Mr. Adam
Cassi, who is the Executive
Director** of this great organi-
zation. Adam will teach us
about ways to control litter
with the tool of recycling.
The recycling process has
changed over
the past several
years and he
will update us
on the needs
and better ways
of recycling.



Please **join us in our virtual
Luncheon Meeting to learn
about methods and materi-
als for recycling** and also an
opportunity to ask Adam
questions about any prob-
lems or concerns you may
have.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

It is back to school time and I am cer-
tain that brings a flood of memories and
perhaps even jitters to all of you retired
teachers! Those still educating children
are facing extremely unique challenges
this school year. We at LCRTA are not
immune to the uncertainty of living
through a pandemic. Your board has
met virtually three times and at our Au-
gust meeting, **we made the decision to
CANCEL ALL IN-PERSON LUNCHEONS
FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020** (Septem-
ber, October, December). This was not
an easy step but necessary due to regu-
lations on indoor gatherings and the
need for social distancing. We will con-
vene in early 2021 to make a decision on
next spring's luncheons.

Because we want to provide the op-
portunity to still gather, although it will
be virtually, **we will have Zoom lunch-
eons—our first scheduled for Septem-
ber 24th at Noon.** We will have a presen-
tation from a speaker (perhaps even a
musical guest artist at a future lunch-
eon). So rather than driving to Stone
Oak Country Club, you can join your
LCRTA friends from the comfort of your
kitchen table or computer desk. If I were
in front of you at a luncheon, I would ask
for a show of hands of how many of you
have used Zoom. I am guessing that
many of you have! **We want to provide
you with a good alternative to being
together in person. This will be fun, in-
formative, not intimidating and there is
no cost!**

You can use Zoom on a computer, tab-
let or smart phone. (Smart phone is the
least desirable due to the size of the
screen.) You do not need to have the
application in advance, but it will save
you time if you do install it before Sep-
tember 24th. You do **NOT** need an ac-
count. (If you install early, search for
correct version of Zoom app—Mac, Win-
dows, phone—to Download and Install)

We need your email address. If you
have not provided it to Jane Nawrocki
(jnawrocki@bex.net), you must or you will
NOT get an invitation to the Zoom luncheon.
Approximately a week prior to the

Zoom gathering, you will receive an
email with the Zoom invitation. **SAVE
THIS EMAIL**, as you will need it to enter
the zoom meeting on September 24th.

- On September 24th (at approximate-
ly 11:45 am) go to the email and click
the link below the prompt **“Join Zoom
Meeting.”** If you are a first time user
and you have not installed the app,
clicking the link will prompt the program
to download Zoom to your device. **Fol-
low the steps** and you should join the
meeting. (It is best to maximize your
screen so you see only the Zoom
meeting, not your desktop or screen.)

- Prompt 1: **Join with or without vid-
eo.** It is nice to share faces and see par-
ticipants, but this is up to you. If you do
not click “join with video” others will see
your name only. (You have the option to
turn off the video during the meeting in
the lower left corner of your screen.)

- Prompt 2: **Join with computer au-
dio.** You must have this **on** so you can
hear others and be heard. I will mute
everyone except those who will have a
role during the meeting. (The mute/
unmute control will also be in the lower
left corner of your screen.)

- 3: In the **upper right corner of your
screen** there are two options: Speaker
view and Gallery View (Brady Bunch
view). Please select **Gallery View.** This
allows you to see other LCRTA members
and speakers who are participating.

**If you need additional help, contact
me personally prior to September 24th
(419-344-7071 OR
scsantoro711@gmail.com).**

*I hope you are excited about this op-
portunity to gather virtually on Septem-
ber 24th and please encourage your
LCRTA “pals” to join in.*

Your executive board is contributing
some new columns/articles to this *Slate*.
I know you will read and enjoy the infor-
mation provided just for you, our LCRTA
members.

I hope you stay well and happy. I look
forward to the day when we can gather
together in-person, but until that day I
am enthusiastic to see you on Zoom!!!

CANCELLED

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, DECEMBER 2020 LUNCHEONS

TIDINGS FROM THE TREASURER— Nancy Wiegand

For those of you who read *The Blade*, you may be familiar with the word “*Blursday*,” used by Food Editor Mary Bilyeu in one of her recent columns. *Blursday* is one example of a new vocabulary that has evolved due to the Coronavirus. It basically means “any and every day at home as they all blur together.” I know I can definitely relate to that! How easy it was to acquire a “do-it-tomorrow” attitude and pick up a good book to read instead! The Area Office on Aging building was closed to the public, so that meant no checks and memberships to process. Our LCRTA board meetings were put on hold. Therefore, monthly financial reports were not under a deadline. However, as the days blurred together and my books piled up, it was a welcome relief when our president suggested the board meet on ZOOM! I didn’t realize how much I missed seeing my fellow board members until their faces started popping up on the computer screen. Then, our hard-working president was able to pave the way for me to pick up LCRTA mail by appointment. So, the Treasurer is now back in business! Please feel free to send your 2021 membership renewal to **LCRTA Treasurer, 2155 Arlington Ave., Toledo, OH 43609**. Right now I am picking up mail only once a month, so please do not be concerned if your check is not immediately cashed. It will eventually be processed. I promise I won’t get lost in a good book!

One of the LCRTA Board’s biggest concerns when the pandemic caused our luncheons to be cancelled was the charities chosen to receive donations. I am sure you are all aware how most of these organizations are struggling financially to help the many people in need. Several years ago, Lucas County Retired Teachers established an Edward Jones account that continues to generate funds for scholarships given to college students pursuing a degree in education. Fortunately, the investment has stayed healthy enough that we are also able to give \$500.00 to each of the charities that missed receiving our help at luncheons that were cancelled.

Best wishes for healthy and safe days ahead. Let’s hope that *Blursdays* are soon a thing of the past and we can all be together in 2021 at the first Lucas County Retired Teachers luncheon of the year! Will look forward to seeing you there!

LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.” — Plato

I was so motivated in March as I made plans to clean every closet, exercise for hours, learn a language and cook gourmet meals. Now it is September and my closets still need cleaning, my exercise goals need tweaking, I still did not learn a new language and I occasionally make what might qualify as a “gourmet” meal. It’s time to take on new challenges this fall. With the help of the internet and any device, the world is at our fingertips. Every month



The Slate will offer some excellent links to entertain or enrich. Let September be the month of music! Susan Santoro, our president, is lucky enough to be related, by marriage, to an absolutely wonderful singer, songwriter and musician. Tony DeSare’s daily perfor-

mances will make you smile. His arrangements of classic pop songs are truly not to be missed. Your best bet is to bookmark his YouTube page and hit subscribe after you fall in love with his voice. https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=tony+de+sare

All of us have laughed and truly enjoyed Wanda Anderson and her hijinks as she sells raffle tickets at our luncheons. Wanda is also a talented performer with the Sweet Adelines. She swears by the YouTube site, Sweet Adelines International. I was blown away as I heard a rendition of “A Crazy Little Thing Called Love.” https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sweet+adelines+chorus

Lastly, I highly recommend tuning in WGTE FM91 for your daily dose of classical music. I also love Minnesota Public Radio’s website because of their phenomenal concert archive. In fact, as I write this I am listening to Beethoven: Symphony 7 as performed by the Mito Chamber Orchestra of Japan. <https://www.classicalmpr.org/story/2020/03/16/free-online-classical-concerts#Concert%20Libraries>

So, my friends, let’s make it our mission to treat ourselves to the wonderful world of music this month! If you have any suggestions for online musicians or concerts, please email your suggestions to: KathyBenya@gmail.com

NEWS FROM ORTA

This was recently posted on ORTA’s Facebook page – Calling all ORTA members! We’ve been receiving MANY requests for **at-home schooling teachers and tutors**. If you would be interested in these opportunities, please send your name and contact information to Alissa Burton at: publications@orta.org. ORTA will begin a list of interested members, and start pairing them with their inquiries.

2021 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 2021 EVENTS!

Memberships in ORTA and LCRTA
EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2020

RENEW now for 20201
 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**

BOOKS??

As I thought about virtual schools and the ins and outs of the English language, I decided that a poem was in order. After 4 lines of my own, I found an anonymous poem that made my point more effectively:

Virtual school
And so many rules
Learning to read is
Quite a task, indeed.

"Sight, site, cite,
I try with all my might.
No matter which
I finally choose,
It's not the one that's right!

There, their, they're,
Enough to make you swear.
Too many ways
To write the one sound,
I just don't think it's fair!

Ewe? You? U?
Whew!!



To, two, too
So what's a kid to do!
I think I'll go
To live on Mars
And leave this mess with ewe!"

I believe, along with many of my friends, that seeing words used correctly while reading helps students to learn and reinforce language. To do that, kids need books. I have been in contact with Diana Bush, the Director of Read for Literacy at Toledo Public Library, and the library is working on ways to be able to once again accept books. This means that we need to continue collecting books to give to Right to Read. I am confident that LCRTA will be sharing plans with you in the future for getting books to kids so they can literally, not virtually, read.

Members may send monetary donations to:
Diana Bush, Read for Literacy
325 North Michigan St.
Toledo, OH 43604

LET'S WELCOME BETHANY HOUSE TO THE LCRTA FAMILY

At our September 24th virtual luncheon, LCRTA members will welcome a new service organization in need of our help: Bethany House of Toledo. This group "provides long term transitional shelter and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and their children." Beyond physical needs, Bethany House addresses the psychological needs of those who come for shelter. Their "goal is to reduce feelings of isolation and shame, and empower survivors to take control of their futures."

We will virtually gather to welcome Deidra Lashley, Executive Director and listen to her description of the work done at Bethany House. The LCRTA Board is mailing a \$500 check to Bethany House as a symbol of our support and appreciation for the work that they do. If individual members would like to contribute, please send contribution to: Deidra Lashley, Bethany House, P.O. Box 5930, Toledo, OH 43613 OR visit: www.BethanyHouseToledo.org

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
Public Relations—Carol Rosebrock: 419.754.3751
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

NONPROFIT ORG

US POSTAGE
PAID
TOLEDO OH
PERMIT #106

BE AWARE OF COVID-19 SCAMS!—Jeannine Petcoff

Hackers, scammers, and con artists have been trying to take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic by offering FRAUDULENT services in exchange for your personal information. They try to exploit your emotions by offering NON EXISTENT cures, test kits, medical aid, treatments, vaccines, and even increases to your Social Security benefits. **BEWARE!!!** To be scammed, all you need to do is offer or confirm answers to a few “simple” questions requiring your name, address, phone number, Social Security number and other financial information.

DON'T provide the personal information requested!
DON'T respond! HANG UP!

Please know and remember **legitimate government agencies NEVER ask** for your personal or financial information over a text message, email, or phone call. Likewise they will NEVER require secrecy, request payments via gift

cards or prepaid debit cards, or threaten you with arrest or legal actions.

You can help stop and catch these COVID-19 scammers.

1. If something seems **suspicious**, call your local **law enforcement agency**.
2. Contact the organization the communication comes from and **verify its authenticity**.
3. Talk about the message with **friends and family**.
4. Report a Social Security scam to <https://oig.ssa.gov/>
5. Report an impostor scam to <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/#crnt&panel1-1>
6. Report a COVID-19 scam to <https://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/report-fraud/>

Remember, to help put a stop to scammers, **Be Aware, Verify, and Report** them to the proper authorities!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GENERAL ELECTION INFORMATION) – SEPTEMBER 2020

This **information is for Ohio**. (*Some specific information is for Lucas County residents only.*) For Michigan residents, check with your board of election.

Deadline to register to vote in the November 3rd General Election is October 5th.

“One-Stop Shopping” at vote.ohio.gov (register to vote, change your address, check your voter registration, print the application for an absentee ballot, find your voting site, look at your ballot ahead of time)

There are three ways to vote:

1. **Vote early (by mail)**. Ohio will mail application for mail in ballots around Labor Day to all registered voters or go to the website above. Once you get your ballot, you

must postmark it by November 2. There is also a drop off location at One Government Center (Lucas County, only). Deadline for drop off is November 3rd by 7:30 PM. Ballots must be dropped off by voter or family member.

2. **Vote Early** (October 6-November 2) **(in person)** 1301 Monroe Street, Toledo (corner of Monroe & 13th St)
3. **Vote on Election Day** – November 3rd (6:30 am-7:30 pm)
Need help or a ride to the polls for Vote Early or on Election Day: **419-868-3669** (leave a message)

Online guide to voting: (information from candidates):

Offices: Vote411.org OR lwvtoledo.org

Judges: JudicialVotesCount.org