

# Lucas County Retired Teachers Association

# The Slate

Affiliated with the Ohio Retired Teachers Association

Volume 51, Issue 4

[LCRTA.WEBLY.COM](http://LCRTA.WEBLY.COM)

September 2022

## NEXT BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 6, 2022

### Remembering JOHN AHERN

John Ahern (his friends called him Jack) was a long-time Professor at the University of Toledo. Additionally, he was an advisor for students who wanted to get their advanced degrees.

Jack had a delightful, upbeat attitude. He was very friendly and always willing to help others. Having an amazing sense of humor, he always enjoyed a funny or unusual story.

In 2005 Jack was the president of LCRTA. He remained very active even after his term as president. Few knew, but Jack always kept at least 3 different speeches in his car's glove compartment, just in case a speaker didn't show up for one of the luncheons. He was always ready to fill in, which he did several times.

I considered Jack a good friend; he will be missed by many friends and colleagues.

—By Rhea Halloran

### LUCKY WINNERS

MAY

Carole Wolfe—\$69.00

Jerri Kaczmarek—\$69.00

Frances Riddle—Basket

assist those families and individuals. Once referred, clients will be placed in safe housing, while being guided by a highly qualified staff. This includes providing behavior health counseling, education and employment training—all to secure a future. Client support continues for two years. They utilize a unique approach called, "trauma-informed therapy" to zero in on the causes of homelessness. This therapy asks questions which avoid blame on the individual, but encourages risk free discussions. These conversations lead to 95% of their clients remaining in housing after completing the program.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will hear from Director

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—Susan Santoro, President

It is back-to-school season and time for LCRTA luncheons to commence. I hope you all had wonderful summers and found time to do things that bring you joy. In the May Slate I shared some goals that I set for myself for the summer months. Not long after making my list, life had other plans and I had some health issues, so many items were not accomplished. Thanks to the urging and support of a dear friend, I did visit some of the Metroparks—three were completely new to me! We are so blessed to have our wonderful park system. I have spent more time meditating and journaling and attribute both to greatly improved sleep. Now that I am in good health, I plan to tackle other items on my list.

Speaking of our luncheons, I hope we will see MANY of you at Stone Oak on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the first day of fall. Consider inviting a friend who

perhaps has not been attending luncheons. The **benefits of LCRTA membership are many**—luncheons at beautiful venues with delicious food, the company of new and "old" friends, hearing from a variety of speakers, partnering with important community agencies, perhaps winning some cash or a beautiful "basket" of goodies and enjoying some special time reserved for retired educators. If you know of friends who have not joined LCRTA or who have let their membership lapse, encourage them to join. There is a plethora of great information on our website [LCRTA.Weebly.com](http://LCRTA.Weebly.com) Please take time to check it out, to read this Slate newsletter and to jot dates on your calendar.

**Happy Almost Fall!**



## "THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME"—Pauline LoCascio

*"There's no place like home, there's no place like home."*

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. You may have heard or said the phrase in the title many times after a vacation or trip.

Home, for most of us, is a respite and safe place for our families to thrive. Unfortunately, home for others, is a place they have lost. The home is lost, for several reasons, job loss, mental or physical health issues, housing affordability, drug abuse or trauma. In their case, clicking "ruby slippers" and wishing they can find a home, is not a reality.

Leading Families Home (formally Beach House), is a charity that steps in to

Lisa Banks, who will share stories of how they instill hope everyday in those that want to be able to say, "There's no place like home."

Leading Families Home is requesting **donations of: gift cards, towels, twin sheets, pillows, personal hygiene items, diapers and kitchen items.** (see page 3 for details)

Thank you for your donations to all our Community Partners.

*"Hope is found when you enter our doors"*

Leading Families Home



#solvinghomelessness ★ 1921 - 2021

# Thursday, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

LCRTA LUNCHEON (noon-2:00)

## Stone Oak Country Club

(100 Stone Oak Boulevard, Holland, OH)

**PROGRAM:** History & Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers by Earl Mack, Jr.

### ENTRÉE CHOICES:

- #1 **Cranberry & Bourbon Chicken:** sautéed chicken breast with cranberry & bourbon sauce
- #2 **Sliced Slow Roasted Beef with Mushroom Gravy:** cooked medium well to well done
- #3 **Mushroom Ravioli with Olive Oil & Herbs**

### Entrée served with:

Banquet Salad, Oven-Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, Chef's Choice of Vegetable Rolls & Butter, Assorted Cookies  
Coffee, Tea, Lemonade

**COST — \$27.00**

Reservations due: **Thursday, September 16**

- ◆ Please complete reservation form at right & include with **check payable to LCRTA**
- ◆ We're Sorry, **NO SUBSTITUTIONS, NO REFUNDS**

*In order to ensure the safety of our guests, we ask that, if you have chosen not to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you respectfully decline our invitation to attend*

**Stone Oak has a lift** for guests who need help with stairs. Please **enter on level 1 by the Tavern** (across from putting green). You will be directed to the lift. Please **arrive early**. The lift can accommodate only one wheelchair & one additional person.

## SEPTEMBER 22 LUNCHEON RESERVATION

I will attend the luncheon at Stone Oak Country Club

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

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

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

TOTAL: (\$27.00 X Number Attending) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations **must be received by September 16**

Please mail to:

Jeannine Petcoff  
15139 Todd Road  
Petersburg, MI 49270

**Mail By SEPTEMBER 14**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO **LCRTA**

Contact Jeannine at: [petcoff@cass.net](mailto:petcoff@cass.net) or 734.854.7511

### DIRECTIONS—STONE OAK COUNTRY CLUB

- **West on Hill Avenue**
- Continuing **past Centennial Road**, you'll see the fence for Stone Oak **on left**
- **Entrance to Country Club is on left** off Hill Ave.

### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM—



Mr. Earl Mack, Jr.—a Vietnam Veteran—retired from the Ohio Department of Public Safety after 32 years of service. His law enforcement career includes: University of Toledo Police Department, Ohio Department of Liquor Control Enforcement Division, Agent-in-Charge of enforcement operations for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Deputy Director of Ohio Homeland Security and Executive Board Member of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. Mr. Mack currently holds a commission with the Lucas County Sheriff's Office and proudly serves as president of the Toledo Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers.

### "GOOD GRIEF!"



Welcome back and as Charlie Brown would say, "Good grief this summer has been so hot!" Charlie would also welcome a new kid to his neighborhood. We would like to introduce our new community partner, **Good Grief of Northwest Ohio**.

Established in 2012, Good Grief provides grief support services for children 4-17 years of age and their adult caregivers, at no cost. Located at 440 South Reynolds Road in Toledo, Good Grief provides support peer group

opportunities. Every other week, these discussions of loss, use art and music to encourage healing. There is no shortage of families who need their services, especially because of COVID and gun violence.

LCRTA will donate, once a year, a \$100.00 dollar stipend to sponsor pizza for one monthly grief meeting. Your support through our 50/50 raffles will help our new community partner's mission to **Gather, Grieve, Support** and bring **Hope**.

I'm sure Charlie Brown would say, "Good Grief is a great addition to our Community Partner Program."

**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**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS or EMAIL ADDRESS**

Call Kathy Benya at: 419.843.2480

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

**JUNE AND AUGUST BOARD UPDATE**

The board continues to meet at Scrambler's in Perrysburg as the Area Office on Aging is not yet open to the public. We welcomed our newest board member, Pat Price, who is assisting with Treasurer's duties. At the August meeting, we approved a request to run paid advertisement only in our emailed Slate news-

letters due to space restrictions in the printed version. The board will approve all ad requests. At the June meeting, we approved our new mission statement, which you can read on page 4 of this Slate and on our website at [LCRTA.Weebly.com](http://LCRTA.Weebly.com). Additionally, it will be displayed at each luncheon.

**MAY LUNCHEON EVALUATION—Doris Weis**

Thank you for the wonderful luncheon! The LCRTA luncheon and meeting was held at Highland Meadows Country Club in Sylvania, Ohio on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 with seventy-eight members and guests attending. Our guest speaker, Mary Helen Darah, had a positive, entertaining, and encouraging message about her life.



Some of the comments were:

- ⇒ Easy entrance and short walk to country club.
- ⇒ Lovely view!
- ⇒ Food was delicious, tender and flavorful!
- ⇒ Helpful staff!
- ⇒ Delicious cheese cakes!
- ⇒ Speaker was humorous with uplifting positive message!
- ⇒ Let's come back!

**HOW CAREFULLY DO YOU READ? CONTEST**

- Find this picture in This Slate.
- Print that page.
- Circle the picture.



- Write your name on the page.
- At the September 22<sup>nd</sup> luncheon, place the page in the contest box to possibly win one of two wonderful prizes.

**2022 LUNCHEON & COMMUNITY PARTNER DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

DATE	LOCATION	PARTNER	NEEDS
SEPTEMBER 22	Stone Oak Country Club	Leading Families Home	Gift cards from: House of Meats, Kroger's, Meijer, Walmart, towels, sheets, pillows, personal hygiene items, diapers (size 2-5), cleaning products
OCTOBER 20	Inverness Country Club	East Toledo Family Center	TBA
DECEMBER 1	Toledo Club	Children's Services	Stuffed Animals, Cars

## 2022 LCRTA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIR

President—Susan Santoro: 419.344.7071  
Past President—Rhea Halloran: 419.666.5718  
Secretary—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Comm. With ORTA—Sharon Clark: 419.345.5571  
Corresponding Secretary—Pat Holz: 419.740.2274  
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—Jo Ascunce: 419.308.2928  
Legislative—Jeanene Pifer: 419.385.6863  
Lunch Reservations—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Or email her at: Petcoff @cass.net  
Membership—Kathy Benya: 419.843.2480  
Protective Services—Jeannine Petcoff: 734.854.7511  
Public Relations—Debbie Mens: 419.344.1006  
Scholarship—Paul Raczkowski: 419.351.1603  
Slate Editor/Webmaster—Jane Nawrocki: 419.861.7766  
Social—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
50/50 Raffle—Wanda Anderson: 419.250.4381  
Judy Egan

## THE SLATE

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

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lucas County Chapter of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association is committed to **furthering** the cause of education by **providing** meaningful contact opportunities with fellow educators, **sharing** current valuable information, **inspiring** members to continue their life of service, and **promoting** the benefits of membership in both Lucas County Retired Teachers Association (LCRTA) and Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA).



## LIFE IN THE TIME OF COVID—Kathy Benya

Several years ago, I was flattered to be invited to be on the LCRTA board. I vividly remember attending my first meeting, not because of the meeting itself, but because of the actual drive there. Pre-Covid we met at the Area Office on Aging on Arlington and Glendale. This building is directly across from what was the Toledo State Hospital, a mental institution. My mother led a tortured life with severe mental illness and was absent much of my childhood, residing there and in the cottages that were behind it. My stories are numerous about the very personal ramifications of growing up at a time when the stigma of mental illness dictated a sort of silence by family members and a community. For well over thirty years, I visited my mother, so very close to where our board met, as she was treated for her extreme mental distress.

Fast forward to 2022. Last month the 988 hotline became available as organized by the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. Although still in its infancy and with glitches to work out, it is quite a step

forward for all those whose lives have been impacted by mental illness. The 988 hotline, coupled with the expanded financial support for community-based mental health teams and crisis response groups makes me optimistic that we are heading in a positive direction when it comes to understanding and helping those with mental illness.

As for me, I am just grateful that the subject of mental illness is no longer the taboo topic it was as I was growing up. I am pleased that in my lifetime, our treatment and understanding of those with emotional and mental issues can be discussed much more openly.

As we emerge from this pandemic, statistics prove that the years since Covid's 2019 arrival have impacted the mental health of so many. May we all remember to show compassion and understanding for those whose emotional wellbeing and mental health were severely impacted by life in the time of Covid.