



# LORCORTA NEWS

APRIL 2022 AN AFFILIATE OF THE OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSN. VOL. XXXVIII NO. 1

## MAY LUNCHEON MAY 18, 2022

Our December luncheon meeting was held at the Spectrum Vocational Center on December 15, 2021. Thanks to all who attended the luncheon and to hear a rebuttal from STRS concerning our long lost COLA. Many asked interesting and vital questions. In the view of your newsletter writer, most were run around answers. There has been movement by STRS on COLA, but you can decide if the solution is really a solution or not. There is information in the minutes from the last meeting as well as in the Legislative Report.

Don't forget that our May meeting is also the time when we honor and congratulate our scholarship winners. We haven't been able to do this in person for two long years. Please come to honor these outstanding students.

## MAY LUNCHEON DETAILS

Don't forget to send in your reservations for lunch by **Wednesday, May 11**. Remember **checks only** accepted and made out to LORCORTA and returned to Helen Bibbee. All the information is on the enclosed form to send back to Helen. If you need to cancel, please do so by May 12. Spectrum needs numbers so no cancellations after that date.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Memorial contributions in memory of Bob Slager were made by Rosann & Wes Bartle, Marilyn & Roger Bauer, William & Janet Bird, Janet & Gary Calkins, Wayne & Gayle Church, Craig & Michelle Cook, Helen Dupont, Barry & Susan Evans, Richard & Denny Fogel, Bill & Karen Gast, Elizabeth & Matthew Gruber, Bob & Barb Hall, Pam & Jim Higgens, Neal & Cheryl Hubbard, Kim, Curt & Brian Kohler, Steven & Kelly Kramer, Marilyn Lewis, Bernard & Gloria Machovina, Mark & Donna McGuire, Jim & Pam McQuown, Dave & Katrina Mraz, Gene & Karen Mraz, Nina & Marie Osborne, Mrs. John Raber, Elizabeth Rex, Michael & Margaret Romer, Emajeane Romer, Masterman, O'Reilly & Rosen Families, Zelfa Sawaya, Barbara Shelar, Jack & Connie Strauss, Julianne Sturik, Swiatek Family, Ron & Cindy Tritch, Tom & Susan Wagner, Ron & Lori Weber, Marian Willing, Jim & Meg Wilson, Elyria Sports Hall of Fame, and OAPSE #186. Thank you all for your generous donations.

As most of you know, Bob Slager, longtime LORCORTA Board member passed away at 90 years old on December 7, 2021. Bob was our treasurer for 30 years. He will be remembered for his kindness to all of us and particularly his jokes and stories, which he told at every opportunity. Surely, on his way to heaven, he stopped to tell St. Peter a joke. Throughout our lives we make many friends, but only a few ever become a good friend, Bob was a good friend to all of us. May he rest in peace.

Your good friend,  
Bernie

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Our May 18th luncheon is centered around our scholarship program. Marilyn Bauer and Virginia Waratinsky will introduce our Keller and Findley-Lute Scholarship recipients for 2022. We look forward to learning about the award winners, and we appreciate both scholarship committees' efforts,

As has been said before, there is strength in numbers, and we need a strong membership in LORCORTA as well as ORTA. We need to fight to increase COLA, pursue the guardianship of our retirement investments, and preserve our pensions and healthcare with STRS. Please help us grow our membership by asking a non-member retired teacher you know to join us at one of our luncheons.

Please join us on May 18th to help celebrate the warmer weather of Spring, rekindle old friendships, and honor our scholarship recipients.

Barbara Sommers  
President

### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

I am sure you all have heard that STRS Retirement Board approved at the March meeting a one-time 3% COLA to be paid to eligible members. The increase of 3% of the base benefit will be added to future monthly payments for a year. The date of the increase is the anniversary of the date of retirement, which always falls on the first of the month. For example, any teacher who retired effective July 1, 2017 or earlier will receive a COLA increase on July 1, 2022. Members who retired July 1, 2018 or later are not eligible for a COLA increase at this time.

The STRS Board intends to review benefits again, no later than Spring 2023, to evaluate whether additional enhancements are possible. The Board also passed a motion to support continued efforts by STRS Ohio Investment staff to divest holdings in Russian-based companies as soon as possible.

Also, please make an effort to vote for the one retired seat on the STRS Board. Ballots will be mailed in April and are due back by May 2, 2022. **PLEASE** pay attention to qualifications of the candidates and recommendations made by ORTA.

## MINUTES FROM DECEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING Dec.15, 2021

- Bernie Machovina called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm, with the Pledge and God Bless America.
- Bernie asked for a moment of silence for Bob Slager, long time treasurer of LORCORTA.
- Bernie gave the invocation and lunch followed.
- 12:54 **Announcements:** baskets on the table are for Findley-Lute Scholarship fund.
- First time attendees were from Midview, Keystone, and Lorain City.
- **Guest Speaker, Nick Treness, Director of Communications from STRS**  
Nick started with FACTS about STRS and about member demographics, then talked about COLA, 13th Check, and COLA cuts over time.  
**Questions:** How many years since COLA and what percentage were the COLAS? Did employees of STRS get raises? Cola reduced to 0% in 2017, 2012 was freeze, 2013 reduced to 2%, 2.5%-3% raises for STRS staff, plus bonuses, merit-based raise received by STRS employees (no employees equals no help for members)  
**PANDA INVESTMENTS** and alternative investment portfolios discussed, and In House portfolio management is 70%  
**STRS OFFICE BUILDING** it's not a state of the art building, staff reduced from 735 to 520, and empty offices are not being rented out. Why not?  
**Forensic audit-** how long before this did a discussion of COLA begin? Are there documents to look at? Answer- Investment details are posted every month on the website. Audid is posted on STRSOH.org  
Has STRS put in statements about contributions vs payouts? After 2022, will STRS continue to offer healthcare? Answer, no information  
**COLA is looked** at every year by board, and board meetings are broadcast.

### Business meeting called to order at 2:03

**Treasurer's report** Jim McQuown **Cash \$2709.61; Investment \$10,454.92; Findley-Lute \$75,329.45 Kinship Care collected \$100 at the fall meeting.**

- **Membership**—Helen Dupont 344 members; 4 associate members
- **Corresponding Secretary**—Helen Bibbee People still need to make checks to **LORCORTA**. Otherwise, all went well with this luncheon's reservations.
- **Legislative**—Bernie Machovina Nothing new
- **Scholarship**—Marilyn and Virginia We are looking for a new Keller chairperson as well as committee members for both.

**Election of officers**

**President Barbara Sommers**

**V Pres -----**

**2nd V Pres Helen Dupont**

**Recording Secretary Barb Fieger**

**Corresponding Secretary Helen Bibbee**

**Past President Bernie Machovina**

Committee chairs will stay the same.

There was a motion to elect the slate by Harvey Hermann, second by Virginia Waratinsky, motion passed unanimously.

The Board members, represented by Marilyn Bauers, presented Bernie Machovina a gift card to White Oaks for his many years of service to LORCORTA and presidency.

Luncheon meetings will be in May, September, and December. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20.

Submitted by  
Barbara Fieger, Recording Secretary

THINK SPRING!



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