



# LORCORTA NEWS

MAY 2024 AN AFFILIATE OF THE OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSN. VOL. XXXXII NO. I

## MAY SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON MAY 21, 2025

Please join us for our annual Scholarship luncheon on Wednesday May 21, 2025 at Rosewood Hall. This is a time to enjoy each other's company, have a lovely meal, and especially honor our outstanding Scholarship recipients. Any Lorain County teacher is welcome to join and attend. Bring a teacher friend or two along!

Our menu includes meat lasagna, pasta primavera, green bean casserole, tossed salad, rolls and butter, beverages, and dessert. Reservations **MUST be received by May 11, and no cancellations after May 12.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The calendar indicates it is Spring, but I am sure we all have our doubts. One day the weather indicates heavy coats, and the next day we shed those for light jackets or sweatshirts. We have all seen enough rain and even some snowflakes. The only true signs of Spring are the beautiful daffodils and the bright yellow colors of the forsythia bushes forecasting warmer weather will soon be here.

You are invited to join us on May 21st for our Annual Scholarship Luncheon. The luncheon illustrates our way of paying forward the love of teaching and the dedication we have to higher education through the scholarships LORCORTA will confer on these students. Come and listen to the wonderful accomplishments of our recipients and their goals for the future.

Barbara Sommers  
President

## MEETINGS

Sept. 17, 2025  
Dec. 10, 2025  
May 20, 2026

Achieve Credit Union presents a program on fraud  
Program of Christmas Harp Music  
Annual Scholarship Luncheon

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

**STRS** has a new Interim Executive Director, Aaron Hood, who is an Ohio native and a graduate of West Point and Harvard Business School. They will continue their Nationwide search for the permanent Executive Director.

Ohio Senator Mark Romanchuk recently introduced Senate Bill 69 with language aimed at strengthening Ohio's Pension Funds. In this bill, STRS Ohio is proposing measures such as increasing contribution rates from Boards of Education while operating under constraints that will lead to financial improvement.

ORTA Executive Robin Rayfield states that STRS collects about \$3 billion in contributions from individuals and employers but pays out about \$7 billion each year. The difference is made up by investment returns. ORTA has been vociferous in its position that an increase in the employer contribution is essential to stabilize the STRS Pension System. Robin also states, "Our active educators pay far more for their pension than other educators around the country while our employers pay the least."

Current Board Member Rudy Fichtenbaum was the only candidate for the retired member seat that was up for election this year. There will be no ballots sent and he will automatically retain his seat on the board with the new term beginning September 1, 2025.

Beanie Machovina  
Legislative Chair

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Findley-Lute Account	\$39,692
Keller Scholarship	\$59,321
LORCORTA	\$15,200

As of February, we had recouped almost all spent on Scholarships last year because of a very strong market. The last two months have been a reversal of those markets.

## DECEMBER MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2024  
ROSEBUD HALL

Barbara Sommers called the meeting to order at 12:06.

**Luncheon** opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of "God Bless America" led by Barb Sommers. The innovation was given by Bernie Machovina.

A luncheon of roast beef, red skin potatoes, carrots, salad, holiday cookies, rolls and butter and beverages was served.

**Program** by Solid Brass—Joe Price, Bobbi Emery, Diane Tucker, Jan Myers, and Gary Twining played holiday selections.

**Business Meeting** was called to order at 1:30 by Barb Sommers.

AMBA Jen Sotlar, Field Market Leader, partners with ORTA for insurance benefits. She gave an overview of the ORTA Member Benefits. She also discussed their Passport to Savings Program.

Barbara also introduced and welcomed guest Alan Toth.

**Treasurer's Report** Jim McQuown reported \$1340.90 in checking; invested \$10,000; Findley-Lute Scholarship \$41,046.42; Keller Scholarship \$61,551.59

**Membership** Helen Dupont reported 284 total members, 224 unified, 60 local only, and 19 have not yet renewed. New leads have been contacted.

**Corresponding Secretary** Helen Bibbee asks that you please call if your check will be late,

**Recording Secretary** Barb Fieger, please let her know if you want your newsletter emailed rather than mailed.

**Community participation** Karen Sprague reported the picture was in for Not Forgotten Box donation.

**Legislation** Bernie Machovina, STRS wants to raise the Board contributions to STRS, but the Bill has not come out of the House or Senate yet. Dr. Rayfield has a personal lawsuit against STRS regarding COLA. This won't be acted upon till 2025. New teachers need to teach 33 years for full benefits. The Social Security Fairness Act is near passing. President Biden will sign. Our new Interim Director of STRS is Aaron Hood.

**Findley-Lute Scholarship** Theresa Brown is looking for a few committee members.

**Keller Scholarship** Sandra Drabiak Lorcor.org is our website for scholarship information. The Scholarship Luncheon will be May 21, 2025. The baskets on the table are for the Findley- Lute today.

**Question and drawing** There was a question for Bernie about Project 2025.

AMBA raffle winner was Theresa Brown

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

Barb Fieger

Secretary

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

We had such success with our contributions for the Wall of Love that we've decided to collect again for our community outreach. Walls of Love provides basic necessities to those in need and the homeless. We collect various small items such as hygiene products, gloves, socks, toothbrushes and paste, paper products, lotions, reading materials, and what will fit into a quart size bag. Volunteers place them on the fence along 2nd St. in downtown Elyria. This shows support through meaningful action that positively impacts the community. Members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church Elyria will hang the bags. Thank you for paying it forward.

## DONATION

**LORCORTA** would like to thank Gary Hrusch for his generous gift to our organization. The money is to be used for our LORCORTA organization's expenses for the good of the group. Thank you so very much with gratitude, Gary.

## SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT

Please make sure that you know your status with the passage of the Fairness Act signed into law by President Biden. If you or your spouse accumulated quarters paid into SS, instead of losing your wife's or husband's benefits, because of your STATE PENSION, you are entitled to them. Even if you never had enough quarters to qualify, you are entitled to part of your spouse's social security also! Call your local Social Security office. This can help many with such few COLA years we have had of late.

## LORCORTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT	Barbara Sommers	440-320-4949
V. PRESIDENT	vacant	
2ND V PRESIDENT	Helen Duipont	440-223-0155
TREASURER	Jim Mcquown	440-309-7620
ASST. TREASURER	vacant	
RECORDING SECRETARY	Barb Fieger	216-544-3865
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Helen Bibbee	440-327-8125
MEMBERSHIP	Helen Dupont	440-223-0155
LEGISLATION	Bernie Machovina	440-323-9492
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	Karen Sprague	440-897-3286
FINDLAY-LUTE SCHOLARSHIP	Theresa Brown	440-309-6827
KELLER SCHOLARSHIP	Sandra Drabiak	440-288-2347
NEWSLETTER	Barb Shuster	440-668-0789
	bshust336@gmail.com	

DATED MATERIAL  
MAILED APRIL 23, 2025  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

LORCORTA TREASURER  
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