



# LORCORTA NEWS

DECEMBER 2025 AN AFFILIATE OF THE OHIO RETIRED TEACHERS ASSN. VOL XLIII NO. 3

## DECEMBER LUNCHEON DECEMBER 10, 2025

Please join us on December 10 for our Holiday luncheon at Rosewood Hall in Lorain. Please bring any retired teachers who are not members. It is very important at this time to be aware of what is happening with STRS in Ohio and to join ORTA to fight for us. Our menu consists of roast beef, red skinned potatoes, buttered carrots, salad, rolls butter, beverages, and Christmas cookies for dessert. More information is on the luncheon reservation form included. Please have your check and form submitted to Helen Bibbee by **Tuesday, December 2. Cancellations are due by December 3.**

Dietary restrictions may be accommodated. Please indicate your dietary concerns on the reservation form.

Hope to see you there for this enjoyable program.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The holidays can be a lot as stated in a current TV commercial. There is so much to plan, prepare, and even the stress to get it all done. We invite you to take a break from all those holiday preparations and join us for our Holiday Luncheon and meeting. Our program will be presented by Virginia Strenger Dickson from Hearth Stone. Virginia is a harpist and through her seasonal selections she will provide us with that holiday feeling.

Please feel free to invite a friend to accompany you on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, and new members are always welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you at the December 10<sup>th</sup> luncheon.  
Barbara Sommers, President

## **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

On October 15, 2025 the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas issued a preliminary injunction preventing changes to the composition of the STRS Board while litigation is in progress. We are not out of the woods regarding our pension board being reconfigured. It is still essential for all of us to make sure our representatives hear our voices. Please write your representative and tell them to leave our pension board intact so we can retain control and have elected members serve on the STRS board.

STRS reported their investments earned a 10.4% net return for fiscal year 2025. Also, during their October meeting the Board elected retired teacher member, Dr. Rudy Fichtenbaum as Board Chair and contributing teacher member, Pat Davidson as Vice-Chair. Both will serve a one-year term ending on August 31, 2026.

ORTA is continuing to collect donations for their Pension Defense Fund to pay for the ongoing lawsuit brought against current Board Chair Rudy Fichtenbaum and former member, Wade Steen. ORTA has collected \$159,111 toward legal expenses of nearly \$300,0000. ORTA needs your help. Please consider making a donation to the Pension Defense Fund. You may contribute by going to [www.ORTA.org/defensefund](http://www.ORTA.org/defensefund) on the internet, or by sending a check to ORTA at 250 E. Wilson Bridge, Worthington, OH 44083.

Bernie Machovina  
Legislative Chair

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

<b>LORCORTA CHECKING</b>	\$ 3,450.95
<b>FINDLEY/LUTE</b>	\$42,706.07
<b>KELLER</b>	\$63,880.36
<b>LORCORTA</b>	\$16,548.10

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Our community participation is growing! For our December meeting you may continue to donate to the Not Forgotten Box for Christmas. The Chronicle-Telegram's closing date is soon after our December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, so we will be just in time. Donating gives LORCORTA good publicity and gives to those less fortunate. The drive collects toys, coats, clothing, and non-perishable food items. Also at our December luncheon, because all of us like to promote good reading habits, we will contribute once again to the neighborhood libraries. So, in December, bring slightly used or new books, any age or reading level.

Thank you for your donations.

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 LUNCHEON

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bob Fisher at 12:01 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Fisher "God Bless America" was led by Barb Fieger, Recording Secretary. The Invocation was led by Mary Ling.

After a luncheon meal of rigatoni, pasta alfredo, green beans, tossed salad, rolls and butter, we heard from speakers Nick Hurst and Becky from Achieve Credit Union. They spoke about fraud, scams and identity theft. We learned the FBI and Federal Trade Commission keep track of victims. Victims are not just senior citizens. Over \$16 billion was reported scammed in 2024.

Scams include romance scams, IRS scams, relatives in distress, well-known businesses (like your bank) claiming they are tech support, such as "your computer is infected".

The #1 reported fraud is credit card fraud.

To avoid identity theft, you must protect your personal information. Shred everything. Not everyone needs your social security information so do not give it to people who contact you. Do not call the number they give you, use the number you have on file.

The advice on passwords is to always use strong ones. And also use multi-factor authorization. If using a QR code you should make sure it is legit. Stickers should never be placed over a QR code.

The business meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm.

Kinship Care was collected at the meeting with baskets placed on the tables.

**Committee Reports:**

Jim McQuown, Treasurer checking account \$1667.88; investment account \$14,527.51; Findley/Lute Scholarship \$41,620.20; Keller Scholarship \$62,627.72. \$230 donated in May to scholarships.

Barb Fieger, Recording Secretary, if you would like your newsletter emailed, please contact us.

Helen Bibbee Corresponding Secretary-nothing at this time.

Karen Sprague Community Participation-Not Forgotten Box. For December meeting we are collecting gently used books for neighborhood libraries.

Helen Dupont Membership-268 total members.

Bernie Machovina-Legislative-Bill in committee for Schools to up the amount they contribute. ORTA asks us to write to Ohio Legislators regarding STRS Board make-up. Addresses were distributed, as well as, an address for the ORTA Defense Fund.

Teresa Brown Findley Lute Scholarship. Thank you notes received.

Sandy Drabiak Keller Scholarship. Thank you notes received.

Barb Shuster Newsletter-no report.

Meeting Concluded 1:39 pm.

Submitted by Barb Fieger  
Recording Secretary



## LORCORTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Barb Sommers	440-320-4949
Vice President	Robert Fischer	440-258-8050
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Helen Dupont	440-223-0155
Treasurer	Jim McQuown	440-309-7620
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant	
Recording Secretary	Barb Fieger	216-544-3865
Corresponding Secretary	Helen Bibbee	440-327-8125
Membership Chairman	Helen Dupont	440-223-0155
Community Participation	Karen Sprague	440-897-3286
Legislation	Bernie Machovina	440-453-5353
Findley-Lute Scholarship	Teresa Brown	440-309-6827
Keller Scholarship	Sandra Drabiak	440-288-2347
Newsletter	Barb Shuster bshust336@gmail.com	440-668-0789

Virginia Wartinsky has made a donation to the Findley-Lute Scholarship fund in acknowledgement of all the LORCORTA members who worked on the Scholarship committee. Especially in remembrance of LORCORTA member Linda Slusser, who passed away on September 6,2025.



DATED MATERIAL  
MAILED NOVEMBER 17, 2025  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

LORCORTA TREASURER  
10863 KILLALOE DR.  
DUBLIN, OH 43017