LORCORTA NEWS

December 2026 An affiliate of the Ohio Retired Teachers Assn Vol. XLV No. 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here it is! Holiday Season is upon us. As you read this message, we are about to embark on the busiest and most exhausting season of the year. Looking forward to meeting and renewing friendships with old friends and attending dinners with family along with concerts and choral performances involving our grandchildren will overload our calendars. But all these activities will fill us with many memories to warm our thoughts throughout the frosty winter months.

Please come and join us on Wednesday, December 9, 2026, to rekindle friendships with colleagues and enjoy lunch at Rosewood Hall (in the back) along with the entertainment of a seasonal music performance.

We have the pleasure of having the Avon Lake Women's Chorus usher us into the Holiday season with a vocal musical performance along with their renditions of beloved songs of the season. The chorus is comprised of 30 women who enjoy singing and entertaining groups of all ages. They will have your feet tapping and your hands clapping and you may even want to join in singing along with them.

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Barbara Sommers, President

LORCORTA GENERAL MEETING
September 16, 2026

The September meeting of LORCORTA was called to order at 12:05 at Rosewood Hall by President Barbara Sommers. God Bless America and the invocation preceded our luncheon. Our guest speaker was Dr. Robin Rayfield, executive director of ORTA. He discussed the problems with STRS, legislation, investor bonuses and many other concerns which will be covered in your December newsletter. He also answered our many questions.

The committee reports:

- Helen Dupont, Membership, reported that we have 191 unified (ORTA and local). There are 53 LORCORTA only for a total of 244. We still need 21 to renew. There are also 4 associate members.

- Treasurers report - $1465.21 in LORCORTA checking and $14,356.32 invested Findley-Lute Scholarship $52,215.11, Keller Scholarship $63,421.61, and May Luncheon donations $107.00 for Findley-Lute

- We have received member donations in memory of Harriet Thompson to Findley-Lute Scholarship. Other donations were made to the scholarships during our 2027 membership drive. Jan Herman's husband Harvey passed away. Keep her in your thoughts.

- Don't forget that items for the Not Forgotten Box will still be accepted at our December Luncheon. Also, with Winter coming don't forget items for the Walls of Love.

- Our Holiday Luncheon will be held on December 9, 2026 at noon at Rosewood Hall. We will enjoy roast beef and the Ladies Chorus for our entertainment.

- The meeting was adjourned by President Barbara Sommers at 1:49.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Shuster

ORTA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS

At the September 16 general meeting, ORTA's Executive Director, Robin Rayfield, gave insight into how STRS is handling, or rather, not handling our pensions. We have not received our promised COLA. Vouchers have affected our pensions. And a current state House Bill has been proposed to modify the governance and composition of the STRS board.

Ohio House Bill 719 is a bipartisan legislation from the 136th General assembly that would reverse changes made via an amendment in the state operating budget (House Bill 96). That budget provision had reduced the number of elected teacher and retiree seats on the STRS Board and increased political/appointed investment positions.

Dr. Rayfield also criticized the bonuses that the investors of our pension money receive and how they are calculated. He said those bonuses were based on an overstatement of the earned investments. The actuarial returns of investments are 7.5, not the 9.5 as reported. This has happened in 19 of the past 20 years. That overstatement on which the investor's bonuses were based was overstated by $5 billion. STRS has done nothing about

this. In the last 20 years if Vanguard had been used for investments, our retirement system would have $25 billion more. This is because of fewer investors and bonuses.

ORTA is our advocate for protecting our pensions.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



For our December meeting we can still participate in the Chronicle's Not-Forgotten Box donations. This is a good way to publicize our group and get a picture in the paper.

If you want to support the Walls of Love with travel-sized shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, other hygiene products, winter gear that will fit in a quart-size freezer bag, handmade goods and baby supplies, or other items for the homeless, you can bring those at our December meeting, too.

Donations collected through The Chronicle-Telegram's Not-Forgotten Box go to The Salvation Army's Elyria Corps, which distributes the toys, clothing, and food to children and families in need throughout Lorain County, Ohio. In Lorain County, the Walls of Love are maintained and stocked locally by a network of community volunteers. This is a way for us to support the community. Your donations are appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP

We have 244 members, with 183 having joint membership with ORTA, the state association. There are 4 associate members, those who are not retired from an employment in education, but who support the teaching organization.

THE MARY ELIZABETH KELLER SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is given to college Juniors or Seniors who are preparing for a career in the education profession. Applicants must be residents of Lorain County and/or graduates of a Lorain County high school.

THE ORRIN R. FINDLEY-WILLIAM AND BETTY LUTE SCHOLARSHIP

This academic scholarship is awarded to college-bound high school graduates. Applicants must be residents of Lorain County and must be the children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews of present or former Lorain County educators.

Applications for both scholarships will be available on January 1, 2027, at lorcorta.org, as well as all Lorian County high schools. Applications will be due by April 1, 2027.

LORCORTA

LORAIN COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
(AN AFFILIATE OF OHIO RETIREMENT for TEACHERS ASSOCIATION)

LORCORTA LUNCHEON MEETING

WHEN: Wednesday December 9, 2026, AT 12:00 PM

WHERE: Rosewood Hall
4493 Oberlin Ave.
Lorain, Ohio 44053

PROGRAM: Avon Lake Women's Chorus

MENU: Roast Beef, Red Skin Potatoes, Buttered Carrots, Tossed Salad,
Rolls and Butter, Coffee, Iced Tea, Pop, and Assorted Holiday Cookies.

COST: $18.00 PER PERSON

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY: Monday, November 30, 2026

NO CANCELLATIONS after Tuesday, December 1, 2026

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK & RESERVATIONS FORM BELOW TO:

Helen Bibbee – 36195 Aurensen Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039 Phone: 440-327-8125

LORCORTA RESERVATION FORM

LUNCHEON DATE December 9, 2026

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____ E-Mail _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS ____ AT $18.00 EACH
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK PAYABLE TO LORCORTA

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Orrin R. Findley/William and Betty Lute Scholarship:



L to R: Derek Dieterich, Leah DiFranco, Elliot Rion. *Absent*: Max Hauck

Derek Dieterich is a graduate of Acon High School. He plans to attend Bowling Green State University majoring in Finance. His parents are Michael and Donna Dieterich.
Leah DiFranco is a graduate of Midview High School. She will attend the Ohio State University majoring in Business. Her parents are Jason and Melinda DiFranco.
Max Hauck is also a graduate of Avon High School and will attend Miami University majoring in Sports Management. His parents are Mathias and Beth Hauck.
Elliot Rion is a graduate of Brookside High School. He will attend the University of Akron majoring in Mechanical Engineering. His parents are Mitchell and Valerie Rion.

Mary Elizabeth Keller Scholarship

Meghan Glahn is a 2023 graduate of Marion L. Steele High. This fall Meghan will be a senior at Bowling Green State University. Meghan's college major is Special Education Intervention Specialist, seeking teacher licensure in Mild-Moderate and Moderate-intensive dual certification. Meghan anticipates completing her studies in the Fall 2026, student teaching Spring 2027 and graduating Spring 2027. Meghan is the daughter of Timothy and Carolynne Glahn, Amherst, Ohio. Meghan has been awarded the Mary Elizabeth Keller Scholarship two years in a row.
Alyssa Caldera is a 2023 graduate of Clearview High School. This fall Alyssa will be a senior at Kent State University. Alyssa's college major is Early Childhood Education, specializing and seeking teaching licensure in grades PreK-5. Alyssa anticipates student teaching during her senior year Fall 2026/2027 and graduating in Fall 2026. Alyssa is the daughter of Luis and Allison Caldera, Lorain, Ohio.



L-R: Meghan Glahn, Alyssa Caldera, Ellamarie Green

Ellamarie Green is a 2023 graduate of Avon Lake High School. This Fall Ellamarie will be a senior at Purdue University. Ellamarie's college major is Special Education, specializing and seeking teaching licensure in Mild-intense Gr. K-6 in both Indiana and Ohio. Ellamarie anticipates completing her studies, student teaching during her senior year Spring 2027 and graduating in Spring 2027. Ellamarie is the daughter of Shawn and Stacey Green, Avon Lake, Ohio.

TREASURER'S REPORT

LORCORTA CHECKING $3,485.95
LORCORTA INVESTMENTS $15,726.41
FINDLEY-LUTE SCHOLARSHIPO FUND $52,550.11
KELLER SCHOLARSHIOP FUND $63,090.11

Findley Scholarship donations of $550 have been received from members during the 2027 membership drive. Additional donations were received in memory of Harriet Thompson.



DATED MATERIAL
MAILED NOVEMBER 16, 2026
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

LORCORTA TREASURER
10863 KILALOE DR.
DUBLIN, OH 43017