



News Sheet "Update" February 13, 2024 ~ #34

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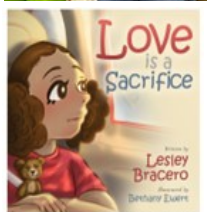
Lamb's Farm Magnolia Café & Bakery ~ Noon

Lesley LaVonne Bracero, Author

Love is a Sacrifice



Lesley LaVonne Bracero has thirty years of experience as an Early Childhood Educator for more than 25 years serving in various roles from classroom teacher to building level administrator. She has been given many accolades for her performance as an educator including Teacher of the Year.



She is a native of Los Angeles, California, and was raised in North Chicago, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Tuskegee University, a Master of Arts in Reading from Northeastern Illinois University, and Masters of Education from American College of Education. She is a public speaker, poet, illustrator, and theatrical performer.

Lesley is passionate about working with children and works tirelessly to instill in them a love of reading. She is happily married to her husband Angel Bracero and makes her home in Waukegan, Illinois.

Meet your 2024-25 LCRTA Executive Officers!



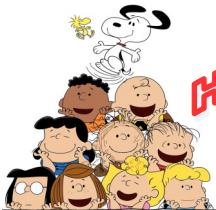
Back Row (L) Hillary Sylvester (Assoc. VP Programs), **Candy Ferguson** (Secretary), **Connie Reidel** (LCRTA Scholarship/Database), **Charlie Carpenter** (Vice-President), **Ray Reidel** (Treasurer), **Bob Kohler** (Past President), **Wendy Wiegers** (Area II Representative/LCRTA Publications)

Front Row (L): Marti Swanson (IRTAPAC), **Linda Davis** (Assoc. VP Programs), **Debbie Lawson** (President), **Allan Meyer** (Publicity)



Starting this year, the **State Legislative, Member Benefits, and Membership Committees** will consist of a State IRTA chair, the corresponding **local unit chair**, and **any other local members** who express an interest in joining. **LCRTA needs these 3 Unit Chairs!** As a Unit chair, you will receive information from the IRTA committees to share with our Unit. You may also be on the said IRTA State committee and participate via Zoom meetings, representing LCRTA!

- Legislative** - Be informed about, communicate about, and mobilize support for legislation favorable to IRTA members, particularly as it relates to TRS pensions and health insurance; Provide leadership in promoting and monitoring legislation that affects retired educators.; Communicate to unit members the importance of a strong response to legislative issues; Formulate strategies for promoting passage of favorable legislation and defeating unfavorable legislation relating to retired educators; Establish and maintain favorable relationships with legislators and seek their support of IRTA proposals; Encourage the membership to use VoterVoice.
- Member Benefits**—AMBA -Act as a liaison between the Association and the Benefits Administrator and investigate, secure, promote, and evaluate current and additional member benefits.
- Membership**—Assist units to recruit new members, retain current members, and re-enroll former members; Encourage spouses and other interested persons to become Associate members; **Work with the Director of Membership/ Marketing to recruit members;** Encourage local unit membership committees to work with Regional Superintendents and school districts including activities such as pre-retirement seminars.



Happy Valentine's Day!

2024 LAKE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

March 12	RACHEL CANNON , Attorney ~ “Future of Cryptocurrencies and Why They May Me Here to Stay”
April 9	SAM LEWIS & LAURIE STEIN , Lake Forest History Center ~ How to Get Started Researching Your Family History”
May 14	ROBERT COLLINS , chef ~ “Youth Culinary School”
June 11	ESTHER SLOAN , Personal Fitness Trainer
JULY	NO MEETING
August 13	DOUG STRAND ~ TRS Trustee SHARON TEEFY ~ IRTA Political Action Chair
September 10	MARTI SWANSON ~ Meet the Candidates
October 8 Dover Straits Mundelein	EDIZON , Keyboard/Sax/Vocalist <i>Reservations Required</i>
November 12	THE GOLDEN 13 ~ National Museum of the American Sailor
December 10	Holiday Fun!



Congratulations to Lake County's **State Sen. Adriane Johnson** who received the **Legislator of the Year Award from ED-RED**, an education advocacy group,

promoting policies that focus on students and what works best for them!



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

In Memoriam



Mable Machalinski, 100, was a retired school nurse from Waukegan Public Schools and **LCRTA President from 1990-91**. In 1993, she received the *LCRTA Community Service Award* and in 1999, she was the *LCRTA Retired Teacher of the Year*. She was the mother-in-law of member, Don Bergsrud.



Mary Ann (Mia) Spooner was wife of LCRTA member, Don. She loved attending our meetings and welcomed all newcomers!



Beacon Place is a Waukegan neighborhood community center located at 630 S. McAlister Ave., that needs volunteers to assist children and families focusing on academic growth, improved health, and building the skills that allow them to see their own path to a brighter tomorrow.

Education and Enrichment (Lead or Assistant) meets Mon-Fri (2/19-5/1) from 3:30-5:30. Volunteers present pre-planned lessons that Beacon Place has put together the week before.

Moms (designated for the mothers of their Beacon Place youth) meets on **Wednesdays only** (2/21-5/1) from 11:00-12:30. **If interested in volunteering or for more information, please contact Sharlett James: (847) 999-6750**
s.james@beacon-place.org



TRS (Teachers Retirement System)

P.O. Box 19253
Springfield, IL 62702-9253
1 (800) 877-7896
www.trs.state.il.us



IRTA (Illinois Retired Teachers Association)

828 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62702
1 (800) 728-4782
www.irtaonline.org



LCRTA (Lake County Retired Teachers Association)

Box 8107, Gurnee, IL 60031
www.lcrta.net

