



# Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex Branch

CARING & SHARING

Fall 2025

## President's Message

Gina Marcon



Is Fall really around the corner? As this dedicated Executive team writes this Newsletter, we are still enjoying the warmth of the summer sun. To quote my favourite comedian Amy Poehler *"Find a group of people*

*who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever."* This amazing local team from the Executive to the Board to the Convenors to the members have come together to do terrific things.

Our partnership with both **YQGgreen** and **WE SERVE SENIORS** is continuing to be an amazing opportunity for our local RWTO Branch. In fact, at this year's convention in Brantford, I was given the opportunity to speak at the Presidents' meeting to discuss this collaboration and many Presidents around the province were excited to go back home and seek out similar opportunities. Together with some Executive members we were out at 7 AM to represent RWTO at the *City of Windsor Annual Greenhouse Sale* in May. We were chilled to the bone selling rain barrels all day but laughed and connected with the community. Then in June, again starting at 7 AM, we were out at the Roseland Golf Course assisting with games and prizes at the *Windsor First Responder Charity Golf Tournament*. How great it was to bump into past students all grown up and help a worthy cause! Speaking of partnerships, we are so proud of our work with **Greater Essex ETFO**. We support the upcoming ladies planning to retire by attending the workshops, answering questions, and encouraging them to join RWTO. To celebrate the recent

purchase of a new building on Walker Rd., we attended their OPEN HOUSE with a gift of two plants and a card. President Mario, 1st VP Antonella and 2nd VP Christina welcomed us, gave us a tour, filled us with treats, and thanked us for our continuous work with Retired Women Teachers. Many thanks to everyone involved with making the Spring Luncheon on May 7th such a success; from the staff at the Yacht Club to the bright sun, blue sky, warm breeze and enchanting sailboats parading by our view. Thanks to Vicky Walker, Annie Rosella, Sandy Shoust and Bridget Russo at the Crafty Affair table. Mille Grazie to Laura Bomben-Grosso and Luana Zambito at the Share the Wealth ticket table. Merci beaucoup to Linda Lynch, Marianne Argus, and Pat Wales for delivering our charity donations around the County. Thanks to the Goodwill Committee for the beautiful **In Memoriam** presentation and the **90+ Celebration**. Congratulations to the many winners of the Crafty Affairs bags, along with Kathy LeFave (AMICA gift basket), Laura Bomben-Grosso, Hannelore Bostwick and Luana Zambito (Share the Wealth) and Simone Rickerby (Free lunch certificate for the September luncheon). Finally, a huge personal THANK-YOU to Karen, Carole, Jan, Vicky and MaryJane for joining me at the 69th Annual RWTO/OERO Convention in Brantford. What an exciting 3 days it was. We represented Windsor-Essex very well. We look forward to the 70th Jubilee Convention in London next year.

Hope to see you all at the EXPO on October 14th. All our community partners in **WE SERVE SENIORS** will be there to explain how they support seniors in the community. You are welcome to bring family members and friends with you. Treats will be served and door prizes available to win.

## Executive & Board Directory 2025 - 2026

Executive and Board		
POSITION	NAME	EMAIL
Honorary President	Linda White	<a href="mailto:lindaawhite@cogeco.ca">lindaawhite@cogeco.ca</a>
Past President	Patricia Wales	<a href="mailto:onefortune6@gmail.com">onefortune6@gmail.com</a>
President	Gina Marcon	<a href="mailto:rwto.oero.we@gmail.com">rwto.oero.we@gmail.com</a>
First Vice-President	Vicky Walker	<a href="mailto:vzwalker1@gmail.com">vzwalker1@gmail.com</a>
Second Vice-President	mj Asick	<a href="mailto:maryjane.asick@gmail.com">maryjane.asick@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Lydia D'Angelo	<a href="mailto:ldangelo222@gmail.com">ldangelo222@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Karen Clark-Lauzon	<a href="mailto:clarklauzon@gmail.com">clarklauzon@gmail.com</a>
Insurance Convenor	Luana Zambito	<a href="mailto:lzambito68@gmail.com">lzambito68@gmail.com</a>
Acting Archivist	Patricia Wales	<a href="mailto:onefortune6@gmail.com">onefortune6@gmail.com</a>
Goodwill Convenor	Val Luscott	<a href="mailto:vluscott54@gmail.com">vluscott54@gmail.com</a>
Issues & Concerns Convenor	Janice Murphy	<a href="mailto:jmurphy26@cogeco.ca">jmurphy26@cogeco.ca</a>
Membership Convenor	Carole Kuli	<a href="mailto:carole.kuli3@gmail.com">carole.kuli3@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Convenor	Diane Milner	<a href="mailto:milneris@outlook.com">milneris@outlook.com</a>
Social Convenor	Anna Campigotto	<a href="mailto:campya23@me.com">campya23@me.com</a>
Website Convenor	Kathy Gallagher	<a href="mailto:inniaudi@gmail.com">inniaudi@gmail.com</a>

Committees		
Goodwill	Val Luscott	<a href="mailto:vluscott54@gmail.com">vluscott54@gmail.com</a>
Social	Lowanna Closs	<a href="mailto:lowannacloss@gmail.com">lowannacloss@gmail.com</a>
	Kathy Gallagher	<a href="mailto:inniaudi@gmail.com">inniaudi@gmail.com</a>
	Rosemary Kyryliuk	<a href="mailto:rkyryliuk@gmail.com">rkyryliuk@gmail.com</a>
	Deirde Palamides	<a href="mailto:mrspal@hotmail.com">mrspal@hotmail.com</a>
	Debbie Powell	<a href="mailto:dedorky@hotmail.com">dedorky@hotmail.com</a>
	Genny Rudzinski	<a href="mailto:gennyrud@gmail.com">gennyrud@gmail.com</a>
	Roberta DiLallo	<a href="mailto:robertadilallo01@gmail.com">robertadilallo01@gmail.com</a>



## Treasurer's Report

Karen Clark-Lauzon

Your dues help our Branch to continue to plan activities and support our members for another year.

Please note these important items:

- A) Dues are \$60/year.
- B) If you have sent in your dues since April 1, 2025, then you are all set until 2026. Please keep track of your payment. A call can always be made to Karen Clark-Lauzon, 519-978-2834 to verify your status.
- C) Canada Post continues to negotiate with its employees. There is a possibility of delivery disruption.
- D) **Our goal this year is to have every member RENEW BY OCTOBER 31, 2025!** Please try to have your dues paid by then. Keeping your membership current also keeps you on the Home and Health Care program for Manulife.

### How to Pay

1) **e-Transfer** to [rwto.treasurere6@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.treasurere6@gmail.com)

No security question/answer needed. Please place your name and "DUES" in the MESSAGE section of your e-Transfer. You can also send me an email message at this address to check your membership status.

2) **By Cheque** – Made payable to RWTO Windsor-Essex. Either by Canada Post or drop off in the mailbox on the porch at:

RWTO Windsor/Essex  
% Karen Clark-Lauzon  
266 Ramblewood Dr.  
LaSalle, ON N9J 3B3

3) **At the Fall Luncheon** – Cash or Cheque made payable to RWTO Windsor-Essex.



Congratulations to our local ETFO on their new office!  
Congratulations on their successful Open House.

## Goodwill Convenor

Val Luscott

Our luncheon at the Windsor Yacht Club was a resounding success. We celebrated the 90th birthdays of 3 members: Sandy Menard, Jo Skuza and Joan Buhlman. We learned a good deal of the careers of these remarkable members. We also enjoyed participating in the Crafty Affair. Thanks to Vicky Walker and her team for organizing. I thank Linda White, Pat Wales, and Kathy Gallagher for organising and presenting our annual Memorial Ceremony.

This year I attended the 80 Plus Tea as a celebrant. This has become a very important and enjoyable event. We thank Anna Campigotto and her "*Worker Bees*" for all their hard work. We were saddened to lose 4 important members this Winter and Spring. Our RWTO sisters were invited to attend a lovely Celebration of Life for Emy McBride. We thank Marg Campeau and her team for arranging a memorable farewell for Emy.

I continue to send get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards as needed.

## Everything You Need To Know About K.I.T.

Linda White, Honourary Past President

A newly formed committee of seven RWTO members will be calling YOU.

K.I.T. is an acronym for Keeping In Touch which is our goal for connecting with our branch members. We're just checking in with you once or twice a year 😊

### **K.I.T. Committee members:**

Marianne Angus  
Jo-Anne Duffy  
Chris Halik

Michelle White  
Rhoda Young  
Linda White





# Senior STRIDERS

**Every Second Tuesday of the Month**

WEATHER PERMITTING

Starting Tuesday September 9th, 2025

Time: 10:30 am

Meeting Place:

Parking Lot of the Riverside Sportsmen Club

10835 Riverside Dr E, Windsor, ON N8P 1A5



Walk with us  
and  
join us for lunch  
at the  
Riverside Sportsmen Club.

## She Wore Many Hats

Patricia Wales, Past President

“Come on Gang!” That was the calling card of Emy McBride, our Emy, as we thought of her at the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario Windsor-Essex. Emy was like the Energizer Bunny, a totally dedicated member since her retirement from teaching 33 years ago in 1992.



Emy has been a prime example of an active senior. You just wanted to be on her team and get involved. Many of us joined RWTO because of the encouragement of Emy. She served our Branch as Membership Convenor, Newsletter Co-Ordinator and

Social Concerns Convenor. The origins of the 80+ Tea started with Emy along with visiting senior members. For over 18 years she planned bus trips, organizing overnight adventures with a busload of women to various Ontario destinations. The bus would not be far along the 401 when the games began. Emy prepared something for the journey to keep the travellers entertained. She was Branch President and later Area Director covering five Branches in southwest Ontario. As a frequent delegate at Provincial Conventions, Emy got to know women across the province not only because of her charming personality but also because of her legendary hospitality rooms. She brought in wonderful snacks (a little CC and Coke as well) and the women gathered, connections began. In 2001 Emy was the Provincial Convention Convenor hosting over 50 Branches at the former Cleary Auditorium.

Emy attended so many meetings with a spirit of sisterhood. She challenged us to be a true example of *Caring and Sharing*. She reminded us that we stood on the shoulders of those who went before us because of the advantages we now have.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> I believe that Emy was welcomed into Heaven with a honey cruller and the greeting: “Come on in Kidaroo.”

## Website Convenor

Kathy Gallagher

Posted on our many social media sites.

**ETFO Open House** – on Facebook, Local and Provincial, RWTO.org website and Instagram

**Emy’s Obituary**- Facebook: Local and Provincial, RWTO.org website and Instagram

**Emy’s Celebration of Life** on the RWTO Windsor-Essex Branch Facebook Page

**Carol Ryan’s request** to post Marcy McCallum’s special song on the Facebook Local page

**Celebrating the 69th Convention** – on Local and Provincial, RWTO.org website and Instagram

**80+ Tea 2025** - on Facebook: Local and Provincial, RWTO.org website and Instagram



# Membership Convenor

Carole Kuli

Our Windsor/Essex Branch is very fortunate to have such a full and active membership. We continue to welcome new members to our RWTO/OREO family. Bienvenue Louise Orr and Tina D'Agnillo and returning to us is Barbara Fitzgerald. Our current membership is 253 members including 9 Lifetime Members. We also have 2 Associate Members. Continue to be advocates for our group and invite your retired friends in the educational realm to a luncheon, so they can see what we are all about.

The new procedure for issuing receipts and membership cards only upon request was graciously received. Receipts and membership cards will be available at our luncheons upon request. If you do not attend the luncheons, you can email (carole.kuli3@gmail.com) or call me (519-564-1479) and I will send you your card and receipt by mail.

The Early Bird Draw is back! If you pay your dues by midnight August 31st, 2025, you will be entered into a draw for a \$25 gift card. This, of course, includes anyone who has already paid their dues.

At the September 30th luncheon, we will be selling tickets for a Free Membership. If you haven't yet paid your membership, you could win a free membership. If you have already paid your membership and you win, you will be reimbursed. **It would save us a lot of time and many phone calls if you could pay your membership dues by October 1, 2025.**

Looking forward to chatting with you at the luncheon.



# Save The Dates!



**Upcoming events  
for RWTO  
members:**

***September 20th*** - RTO 40th Anniversary Dinner Gala (tickets still available)

***September 30th*** - Fall Luncheon at St. Mary's Hall in Maidstone

***September 27th*** - ABBA Revisited

***October 14th*** - Senior EXPO at the Signature Events Centre

***December 2nd*** - Winter Luncheon at Ciociaro Club (more info to follow in next Newsletter)

***March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026*** - RWTO/OERO 70th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration Luncheon at Beach Grove Golf & Country Club.

# Caring and Sharing

Vicky Walker, Vice President

Ladies you continue to generously donate to the 14 charities we support. This luncheon we are focusing on these 4 charities.

**Welcome Centre Shelter for Women** is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to supporting an emergency shelter for women and families experiencing homelessness and related challenges.

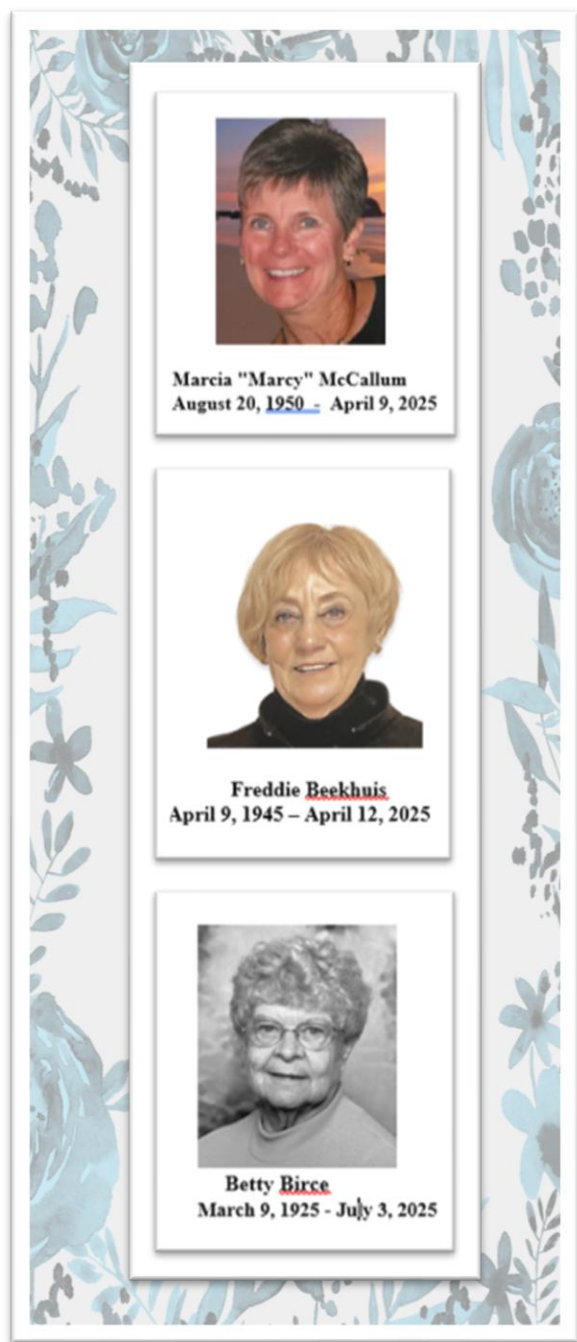
**Windsor Youth Centre** is a program of the Downtown Mission that provides young people aged 16 – 29 with essentials like food and hygiene items as well as opportunities to develop their personal identity and investigate growth opportunities in a safe place.

**Divine Mercy** is a community-based organization that provides food assistance to those in need.

**Drouillard Place** provides emergency food aid and food assistance. They can provide 2 to 3 days of food supply to eligible area residents. They will be the recipient of our Share the Wealth Draw

## In Memorium

Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories..."



We have reached out to the families of these beloved Branch members who recently passed away. Our condolences were extended to their families on your behalf with the assurance that a children's book will be placed in the local public library in the memory of each of these dedicated women.

## Manulife

Luanna Zambito, Insurance Convenor

Do you have **RWTO/OERO's Hospital and Home Care Insurance Plan**? If so, you are fortunate to be covered for financial assistance for unexpected costs associated with getting well, which includes a wide range of benefits. If not, please consider looking into this excellent coverage from Manulife to supplement your provincial plan.

For a brochure, please contact me or visit our website at: <https://rwto.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Insurance-Brochure.pdf>

On another note, those of you with the insurance plan are reminded that to keep your plan current, it is necessary to keep up to date with your RWTO membership dues. **Be sure that your membership is paid and up to date!**

**DID YOU KNOW** that you do not need to see the Specialist who treated you in hospital to complete the Claim Form? Your family physician receives all reports from the various Specialists you may visit and will usually complete the forms much quicker than the Specialist will. And, if he or she charges you a fee to complete the Attending Physician Statement of the Claim Form; you can submit a receipt for that charge and be reimbursed up to \$50 under the Physician Valuation Expense benefit.

If you any questions do not hesitate to reach out: [lzambito68@gmail.com](mailto:lzambito68@gmail.com) or 226-246-2942

## 80+ Tea Request

Members, do you want to declutter and have teacups and saucers that you are willing to donate for our 80+ Tea giveaways?

Please contact: Anna  
Campigotto:  
[campya23@me.com](mailto:campya23@me.com)  
or  
519-978-0652





# **La vie a Paris. Oui, oui, mon amie!"**

Carole Kuli, AGM Representative

This was the flavour of our 3 days in Brantford, Ontario for the 69th RWTO/OERO AGM Convention.

The Windsor/ Essex Branch delegation consisted of Gina Marcon, Vicky Walker, Mary Jane Asick, Jan Murphy and Carole Kuli. Karen Clark-Lauzon also represented us in a past president capacity. Being my first experience, I had no idea what to expect. My overall perspective is that the conference is twofold. The main objective was to accomplish the business aspect of RWTO/OERO and to pass the reigns to the new executive of 2026. The second part is the camaraderie, friendship and sharing of our organization which exemplifies our motto of Caring and Sharing.

For the business aspect, there were four workshops (Marketing, Insurance, Treasurer, and Social Justice) offered. Their main purpose was to assist us with our branch duties and to give us more information. I attended the Marketing workshop and left with some new ideas.

There were 13 Resolutions brought forth by various branches. Resolutions 1-4 dealt with making AGM delegations more equitable for all branches. Resolution 5 introduced the idea of a Branch Social Member. Resolutions 6-11 and 13 focused mostly on wording change. Resolution 12 stipulated that Google Maps will be used for calculating mileage for all events. All 13 resolutions votes were carried.

This AGM hosted by Area 4, Brant, Haldimand and Hamilton-Wentworth branches, focused on Paris which is appropriate since the town of Paris, Ontario is only a few kms away. The fun and friendship commenced with a delicious dinner and a 50's night with Elvis (Brad Boland). The delegates dressed up in their poodle skirts and bobby socks and rocked the night away to many wonderful oldies. What a fun night!

Day Two of the conference was very busy. We started our day with a complimentary breakfast then on to our meeting. The afternoon excursions also had a Parisien twist: Brantford City Tour, Cruising the Grand River, Canadians in Patee, and Glenhyrst - A Spot of Tea. For those who preferred to stay at the hotel, activities such as Creating a Dreamcatcher, Ancestral Medicine Woman and the Power of Healing Waters and Aquafit were provided.

Day two ended with a Parisien evening of Haute Couture where the ladies donned their very chic evening attire. The Board of Directors and head table made a grand entrance led by a Scottish piper. Among the evening presentations were the Barbara Bain and the Feather in Your Hat awards. Our entertainment that evening was the outstanding vocals of Erin Bree Pierce.

Each branch donated a gift that would be part of the Silent Auction. Windsor was very well represented with two baskets: one a Canadian theme and one a Windsor theme. The auction kept everyone on their toes with some healthy competition for those hoping to win their favourite item. Door prizes and giveaways throughout the three days were great perks.

The final luncheon included a Town Crier who introduced each pair in the Mother/Daughter, Aunt /Niece ceremonial celebration. Jan Murdoch (Past President) passed the gavel to the New President, Linda Sargeant and the Call to Convention in London was announced. This was our final sendoff.

What an interesting, fun and educational three days!



## Social Events

Anna Campigotto

This year we honoured the wonderful Emily McBride who was the “Queen Bee” of the RWTO 80+ Tea. Thank you for holding the very first RWTO 80+ tea in a friend’s living room. May you Rest in Peace Emy. On June 9<sup>th</sup> we held our 80+ Tea at Seasons in Lasalle. These ladies were dressed to impress and enjoyed the amazing food, friends, fun, laughter, goody bags and the music of Gail Raymond. Thank you to Seasons for the great food and the accommodations. Thanks to Marg Campeau and her sewing ladies for the beautiful bags. Thank you to Carol Petryshyn for the amazing corsages and chocolate strawberries. Also, to our great Social Committee and all the volunteers that assisted in

making this  
another successful  
day.



## Upcoming Events

1. **ABBA Revisited** Saturday September 27, 2025, Chrysler Theatre. Cost \$63 Contact Anna Campigotto – [campya23@me.com](mailto:campya23@me.com) or 519-978-0652
2. **Walking Club** – Starts in September it will be posted on Facebook and eblast and is in this newsletter
3. **Amherstburg “Shop Hop”** - November – date to be announced
4. **Paint Night with Julia Conlon** - February- date to be announced
5. **St. Patrick’s Day Lunch** – March – date and place to be announced



## Issues and Concerns

Janice Murphy

At the AGM, RWTO Executive received a pamphlet titled 2025 Position Paper – “**Transformation of the “Women’s World” in Long-Term Care Facilities to Home-Like Settings**”. This was prepared by the Retired Women Teachers of Ontario and researched by the Social Justice Committee. All the information found in the prepared pamphlet is the property of RWTO and the Social Justice Committee. The information gives an understanding of the words, ideas, research, direction, and the urgent need for change due to the Canadian statistics on Women in LTC. It includes detailed solutions on new training for staff, the need to create a home atmosphere of participation, and a caring humanized environment. The 2025 Position Paper points out that the Canadian Government will also be needed to be part of the equation in creating important changes. There are also some direct questions included in the Position Paper to encourage action from the Decision-Makers. In reading the information in the pamphlet the one part that spoke strongly to me is that we build someone up, spend some time, let them know they are valued, welcomed, and listened to. Isolation is not helpful. For further information please contact directly: [rwtovprovprogramcoord2024@gmail.com](mailto:rwtovprovprogramcoord2024@gmail.com)



**\*\*PLEASE BRING  
DONATIONS OF  
CLOTHING AND  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS  
FOR THE MAY COURT  
CLUB\*\***



**REFRESHMENTS  
DOOR PRIZES  
VENDORS**

**INVITES  
RWTO/OERO MEMBERS  
TO OUR FREE  
SENIORS' EXPO**

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**SIGNATURE TRIBUTES EVENT CENTRE  
3310 DOUGALL AVE, WINDSOR, ONT**

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**OCTOBER 14     9AM-11AM  
RSVP BEFORE OCTOBER 7  
INFO@ONESOURCEMOVING.CA**



**Fall Luncheon**  
**Tuesday September 30, 2025**  
**Social Hour – 11:00 am to 11:45 am**  
**Lunch Served: 12:15 pm**

**Venue:** St. Mary's Hall  
12016 Talbot Rd.,  
Maidstone, ON  
NOR 1K0

**Buffet Style**  
**Thanksgiving Menu**  
**Cost \$40.00**

\*\*\*Please purchase tickets by: Sunday September 21, 2025. \*\* No refunds will be available after this date.

**Options for payment:**

1) e-Transfer to: [rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com](mailto:rwto.treasurer6@gmail.com)  
- Please include your full name and "Fall Luncheon" in the transfer message area.

\*e-Transfers are auto deposit.

2) Mail or porch drop your cheque, (please, no post-dated cheques) along with the form below, made payable to:

RWTO Windsor-Essex  
c/o Karen Clark-Lauzon  
266 Ramblewood Dr.  
LaSalle, ON  
N9J 3B3

**Support Our Mission of Sharing and Caring**

**Welcome Centre:** Canned soup, pasta & sauce, Sidekicks noodles, rice, school snacks especially peanut free

**Windsor Youth Centre:** Snack items for school lunches, deodorant, soap, body wash, shampoo

**Divine Mercy:** Cereal, peanut butter, tuna, pasta, pudding cups, juice boxes

**Drouillard Place:** Share the Wealth

A book exchange will be available.

**Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Luncheon? Y or N

**Guest Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

First Luncheon? Y or N

**Number of lunches @ \$40.00:** \_\_\_\_\_

Newly Retired Member? Y or N