



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 55 No.5

October, 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

The Installation of Officers will be held at the November 12th meeting. Terri Herbert and David Morse will be installed as Co-Presidents for the 2020 year. Virginia Keller will be installed as President-Elect with Connie Irvin installed as a Director. This November meeting will be the end of my term as President. I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard and been so helpful during the past three years.

Our Scholarship Committee, under the direction of Tim Niederkorn, chose Katherine Patty of Mentor Schools and Gabrielle Taylor of Wickliffe Schools to each receive a \$1,200 scholarship from LCRTA. Thank you to all who donated during the luncheons, added a little extra along with the payment of your dues, or came to a Dining to Donate event sponsored by the Scholarship Committee.

Our Jean P. Lentz Memorial Active Teacher Grant Program presented grants of \$200 each to 4 teachers, Erin Avram-Fairport Harbor Schools, Christine Chandler-Madison Schools, Christine Downs-Willoughby-Eastlake Schools, and Donna Fiore-Mentor Schools. The grant program will continue beginning in November. Please consider adding "a little more" when you send in your membership check beginning November 1.

Our new ORTA liaison will be attending the meeting on November 12. Susan Harris will be coming from Alliance if weather permits.

## LEGISLATIVE STUFF FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

By Tom Moscovic

### STRS FUN FACTS

STRS Ohio is celebrating its 100th year of existence. The longest paid service retiree has been receiving a benefit for fifty (50) years. She has had a relationship with STRS for 85 of our 100 years. She taught for 35 years and has received the benefit for 50 years.

STRS has the following:

- 198 recipients age 100 or older
- 170 females and 28 males-down from 216 last year.
- 140 are service retirees-actually worked in the system
- 51 are beneficiaries of service retirees
- 5 are survivors of an active teacher
- 2 are disability recipients

There are 125 who are 99-up from 115 last year.

The longest paid recipient is a survivor who began receiving benefits in September, 1954, at age 21 at \$50 a month increasing to \$337 a month. She has been receiving a benefit for more than 64 years.

Two members retired this year with 40 or more years of service. Both are 76 years old, born in 1942. Both retired from city school districts. One began at \$8,750 and finished at \$82,500. The other began at \$6,500 and ended at \$67,000.

Active Members:

There are 21 active members with 50 years or more of service, up from 16 in 2018.

We have 173 active members with 40 or more years of service - up from 218 in 2018.

The member with the most years of service is age 81 and has 59.8 years of service credit. This member began working in 1959 at \$4,120/year And earned nearly \$78,000 in 2018.

The oldest full-time member is an 89 years old university professor with 30 years of service.

Eleven members are in the Defined Contribution Plan with a balance exceeding \$1,000,000.



### LUNCHEON MEETING

November 12, 2019  
Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland

11:00 Social time  
11:30 Lunch served

Program: Dr. John Foster "Alexander Hamilton"

(Legislative continued)

## Ohio May Cut Benefits for Future State Employees as Part of Public Pension Fix

Ohio's largest public-pension system might cut benefits for future employees, under a plan that is under consideration.

The Board of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System is weighing raising the retirement age and cutting benefits for all employees in 2022 or later,

In a different proposal to save money on healthcare costs, the OPERS board is considering shifting future retirees who haven't yet qualified for Medicare into the Obamacare marketplaces, while giving them the money to cover the premiums. The OPERS board this week also voted to freeze pensioners' automatic cost-of-living increases for 2022 and 2023.

All the changes are meant to strengthen the pension system, which is short \$24 billion of what it needs to fund its total obligation. The cost-of-living freeze, for example, would save OPERS an estimated \$3.4 billion, officials said. The non healthcare-related moves would require further approval by state legislators, who last took major action to cut state employee pension benefits in 2013.

Mike Pramik, an OPERS spokesman, said pension system leaders are preparing for what's expected to be a tougher future investment climate. "It's a lot more uncertain over the next few years, or at least that's what everyone's telling us," he said. "So we need to plan for that."

OPERS which represents about 516,000 active and state retired employees, is Ohio's largest public-employee pension system. Its investment holdings are worth \$87.8 billion, making it one of the largest systems in the country. Under the changes being considered a new, non-law enforcement hire would have to wait until they're 62 and have 35 years of service credit before they could retire and have full pension benefits. That compares to an equivalent new hire now, who has to work until they're 55 and have 32 years of service.

They also would have to set aside 11% of their salary to fund their retirement, compared to the current 10%. The OPERS board was briefed on the potential changes this week. Pramik said they may ask the state legislature to adopt the changes later this year.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION



**Feeding the Community**

*By Louise Bennet*  
***Busy, Busy, Busy!***

As the holidays approach everyone is so busy! However, retired teachers are never too busy to help others, especially children.. At our November 12th luncheon meeting we will be collecting food items to donate to the End 68 Hours of Hunger program. The Lake County Branch of this organization has recently celebrated it 5th Anniversary of providing food to needy children. The "68" stand for the approximate number of "hungry hours" from a free lunch at school on Friday until breakfast is provided Monday morning at school. Listed below are the requested food items:

10 oz. jars of peanut butter and jelly  
10 oz. or smaller cans of tuna or chicken  
canned beef stew and pasta (beefaroni, etc.)  
cans of soup  
Saltines and graham crackers  
macaroni and cheese  
Boxes/pouches of flavored rice, noodles, potatoes  
Individual packets of instant oatmeal  
Fruit, pudding, applesauce cups - 4/6 packs

Please keep in mind, if you feel a hunger pain today, what it feels like, and the peace of mind we each have knowing we are able to "fix" it. Imagine having to exist hungry, not knowing if or when that pang will be fed. Please bring one or more of the above items to the next LCRTA meeting.

YOUR donations (sooo many, THANK YOU!) at the last meeting were very well received and appreciated by those at Hannah's Home. Let's keep up the good work!

One more thing; speaking of good work, please record and turn in any and all volunteer hours for 2019. The tear-off states "Sept.-Oct." but I do not keep a total by individual months. In the end, the total hours for the year is what is sent to ORTA and our hours are lagging. Many of you volunteer your time; please take a few more minutes to record that time to help our chapter of ORTA shine.

*See Volunteer Hours form on page 4 of this newsletter.*

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation Form

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland

**DUE BY NOVEMBER 1, 2019**

Please send reservation form with your payment to:

**Susan McCarter**  
**9720 Johnnycake Ridge Road**  
**Mentor, Ohio 44060**  
**440-639-1141**

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO L.C.R.T.A.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_(s) for the LCRTA luncheon at \$16.00 per person

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list all attending)

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch ( Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_Chicken Marsala in mushroom marsala sauce \_\_\_\_\_Penne Pasta Primavera

Includes: Garden Salad, Whipped Potato/ sour cream & bacon, Vegetable Medley, rolls/butter, Apple Fritters, Beverages

## Teacher Health and Wellness Act (H.R.4221)

Representatives Tim Ryan and Mike Bost introduced the Teacher Health and Wellness Act ( H. R. 4221). This bi-partisan legislation provides support for teachers by creating a pilot study at the National Institute of Health aimed at reducing teacher stress, increasing teacher health, and ultimately boosting student achievement.

High levels of stress are adversely affecting teachers' health. Teachers with high level of stress are less effective in raising student achievement than their healthier peers. According to a 2017 Educator Quality of Work Life Survey by the American Federation of Teachers and the Badass Teachers Association\*\*, 61 % of educators and schools staff find their work "always" or "often" stressful. It's significantly higher than workers in the general population, who report that work is "always" or "often" stressful only 30% of the time. Stress affects the physical health of teachers which compromises teaching performance and negatively impacts student well-being.

\*\* Editors Note: Badass Teachers Association

The Badass Teachers Association (BAT or BATs) is an education and social justice activist organization that challenges what it sees as "corporate-driven" education reform efforts and advocates for social justice.

## Have Donations - Will Deliver!



Louise Bennet and her donation delivery

Community Participation" appears in each edition of the *Bellringer*. This article indicates what the donated items should be and where your donations will be taken. The article is written for each

issue by Louise Bennet. Not only does she search out the various organizations, contact the people, write the articles but also delivers the donations. Remember when she wrote an article asking for boys underwear? So much came in that the organization was amazed with what she delivered.

She is constantly on the lookout for new places that need help. Often the card is filled in the back and even the back seat. Thanks to all members who answer her call.

Louise is also in charge of Volunteer Hours. Please make sure that you get your hours to her for 2019 before the end of the year. The tear-off slip is on page 4 of this newsletter for September-October

Thank You Louise for all that you do for LCRTA.



# THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

lakecountyrta.weebly.com



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 12, 2019 - Luncheon Meeting - Kirtlander Party Center

November 14, 2019 - Informational Meeting - Mentor Public Library - 1:30PM

December 6-9, 2019 - Williamsburg Christmas

December 11, 2019 - A Jazzy Holiday Concert - Fine Arts

March 4, 2020 - A Stroll Down Broadway - Fine Arts

October 9-14, 2020 - Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

### Volunteer Hours September - October 2019

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Caregiver hours \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Hours \_\_\_\_\_

**Louise Bennet**

Please bring this tear off to the luncheon or mail it to:

**7995 Burgundy Lane  
Painesville, Ohio 44077**

**2019 - 2020 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER, 2019 – AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2019 - INFORMATIONAL MEETING**  
**DECEMBER 6 – 9, 2019 – WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS**  
**DECEMBER 11, 2019 - A JAZZY HOLIDAY CONCERT - FINE ARTS**  
**MARCH 4, 2020 - A STROLL DOWN BROADWAY - FINE ARTS**  
**OCTOBER 9 - 14, 2020 - ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA**

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO L.C.R.T.A.**  
**UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE!!**

**PHONE OR EMAIL THE PERSON IN CHARGE WHEN YOU MAIL YOUR CHECK!!**

IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIPS, PLEASE CONTACT A COMMITTEE MEMBER

OR SEND AN EMAIL TO OUR EMAIL ADDRESS: [oh.lcrtasotrav@gmail.com](mailto:oh.lcrtasotrav@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Gail Allcock, Sherry Barbieri, Kathleen Kling, Bev Lee, Lynn Miller, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard

**NOVEMBER, 2019**

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

Join the Social/Travel committee at Mentor Public Library for a meeting to introduce new ideas and upcoming trips planned for 2019 and 2020. We will be meeting in the Garfield Room (downstairs) at 1:30 PM. The representative from Premier World Discovery will also attend to discuss the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta trip. Your suggestions for future trips and events are welcome. **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!!**

**DECEMBER 6 - 9, 2019**

**WILLIAMSBURG CHRISTMAS**

**CHECK FOR AVAILABILITY**

We will be traveling by motorcoach with Great Day! Tours to experience the Grand Illumination at Williamsburg. The tour visits Historic Staunton, Monticello, and Richmond as well as Williamsburg, VA. Included are three breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, transportation, lodging, and entrance fees. Cost: **\$759.60 (double) or \$972.60 (single)**. **Final payment is due Oct. 23, 2019**. All payment(s) should be made to **Great Day! Tours**.

**Contact: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com).**

**OCTOBER 9 – 14, 2020**

**ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA**

**DEPOSIT DUE: APRIL 9, 2020**

Join us on an exciting trip to New Mexico with Premier World Discovery Tours. Experience over 100 colorful hot air balloons from around the world at the Dawn Patrol and early morning Mass Ascension. Trip highlights include: Balloon Glow, Old Town, Albuquerque; 3 nights in Santa Fe; Indian Pueblo Cultural Center; Los Alamos Science Museum; Santa Fe city tour; Loretto Chapel; Taos Pueblo and Taos City Tour; and High Road to Taos. The trip includes 5 breakfasts, 2 dinners, 2 nights in Albuquerque, 3 nights in Santa Fe, and airfare to and from Cleveland. The cost is \$2333 per person double occupancy which includes a \$100 discount if final payment is made by check. The single supplement is \$675. A \$300 deposit is due by April 9, 2020 as long as space is available. The brochure and registration can be found on the LCRTA website or **contact Sherry Barbieri at 440-946-1628 or [sun\\_light@oh.rr.com](mailto:sun_light@oh.rr.com)**.

CUT -----

**DECEMBER 11, 2019 "A JAZZY HOLIDAY CONCERT" w/ CLIFF HABIAN DUE: NOV. 13, 2019**

MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. Make check payable to **LCRTA**.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "A Jazzy Holiday Concert" at **\$12 per person (based on group of 10)**.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list name(s) and contact information separately if additional members/guests are included on this form.**

CUT -----

**MARCH 4, 2020**

**"A STROLL DOWN BROADWAY"**

**DUE: FEB. 7, 2020**

MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. Make check payable to **LCRTA**.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "A Stroll Down Broadway" at **\$12 per person (based on group of 10)**.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

**Please list name(s) and contact information separately if additional members/guests are included on this form.**

## FINE ARTS SENIOR MATINEE SERIES 2019

Ticket prices of **\$12 each** are based on a group of 10. The show begins at 1:00 pm in The Fine Arts Association Corning Auditorium at 38660 Mentor Avenue in Willoughby and includes a cookie and punch reception following the performance. Payment must be made to "LCRТА" and mailed to **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.**



**Cliff Habian**



**Bob Godfrey**

**WED., DEC. 11, 2019    A JAZZY HOLIDAY CONCERT w/ CLIFF HABIAN    DUE: NOV. 13, 2019**  
The popular Cleveland pianist and author brings his jazz combo to play classic holiday favorites with a "jazzy twist." *Rated G.*

**WED., MAR. 4, 2020                    A STROLL DOWN BROADWAY                    DUE: FEB. 7, 2020**  
Bob Godfrey performs Broadway melodies for his favorite roles including "The Music Man," "Sweeney Todd," "Man of La Mancha," "Footloose," "Fiddler on the Roof," and more. *Rated G.*

# COME TRAVEL WITH LCRТА



Visit the Social/Travel page at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/socialtravel.html> to download forms and see photos of previous trips.