



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 56 No. 3

May, 2020

## From the President....

We are in the midst of a giant social experiment of scientists versus politicians. Each group advocating what they see as our way out of the pandemic with the least amount of discomfort and suffering for our society. Stay tuned for the final chapter. We are going to be in the history books in the future.

If you are keeping up on plans for re-opening Ohio to some degree of 'normalcy', you are aware that plans are in the works for the state's educational system. I follow the plans to have social distancing in the classrooms, split schedules with half of the students for 2 days and then the other half for 2 other days, and various other ideas. I wonder how class changes can be arranged and how lunch programs will operate to maintain guidelines. And, quite honestly, I am glad to be far away from the decision making process, but I offer my best wishes to those who are trying to do their best in the face of a very daunting task.

Now for some calming atmosphere in your life, may I suggest that you dig out that old John Denver recording and play "Sunshine on My Shoulders."

Stay safe, stay well.

David Morse  
Co-President  
LCRTA

## Virus & Online Education - Aren't Ya Glad You're Retired????!!!!

Tom Moscovic - Legislative Chair

**Teachers Were Forced to Leave Buildings Like They Were on Fire and Have Not Gone Back !**

### The Scramble to Move America's Schools Online

America's sprawling K-12 public education system is scrambling to move online, almost overnight, with little time to plan and even less clarity about what happens next. Undertaken in response to the spiraling coronavirus crisis, the massive and scattershot transition has shifted much of the burden of schooling onto overwhelmed parents and caregivers, highlighting both the enormous potential and profound limitations of classroom technology.

Like everyone else, educators were caught unprepared for the scope and speed of the disruptions caused by a global pandemic. In little more than two weeks, the coronavirus led to the mass closure of at least 124,000 school buildings, leaving more than 55 million children without access to in-person classroom instruction, counseling, and other services. Thrust into emergency triage, schools focused first on how to provide food and other basics. In recent days, they've pivoted to the far more difficult task of teaching children from afar. With minimal training, often while stuck at home and juggling their own family responsibilities, the country's teachers and principals have sprung into action, distributing Chromebooks to students and sending Wi-Fi enabled school buses into their communities, teaching on Instagram Live and hosting virtual class discussions on Zoom and calling students and parents on the telephone to make sure they are OK. Nearly three-fourths of teachers in schools closed due to the coronavirus say they are still providing some instructions to their students, according to a national representative survey administered online by Education Week Research Center on March 24 and 25. Sixty percent say they are assigning and collecting student work online, and more than a third are using digital tools to teach live classes.

Still, at a national level, the effort has been chaotic and uneven, with schools running into enormous barriers as they attempt to use technology to keep the country's public education system up and running. Messages from state and federal authorities about how long the closure

The following address changes need to be made in your 2020 LCRTA Membership Directory:

Norma Kuzik	Bette Lovsin
21071 Lakeshore Blvd.	36500 Euclid Ave. B-475
Euclid, Ohio 44123	Willoughby, Ohio 44094

Please make the appropriate changes in the book.



**LUNCHEON MEETING  
SCHEDULED FOR  
JUNE 9, 2020  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

Legislative continued...

may last, whether schools can require online classwork, and what will become of state requirements around instructional time-have often been contradictory and quick to change, and emergency financial relief has been slow to come.

Huge gaps in the nation's broadband infrastructure have also left millions of rural and poor families without reliable internet access. Many schools don't have enough computers or tablets for all their students, or an adequate plan to distribute the devices on hand. English language learners and students with disabilities are often being left behind. Concerns about data privacy and screen time are rising as the nation's children turn en masse to digital learning tools.

### **Draconian Cuts to Schools Could Come as Soon as This Summer**

Drastic cuts to public school spending could come as soon as this summer, an acceleration of the fiscal pain that analysts had already been forecasting for K-12 education.

State budgets have been massacred by the widespread shutdown of the economy. And school finance experts-updating their forecasts on a near daily basis-are now saying public schools will be forced as soon as this summer to make dramatic cuts in their budgets. Signs of the severity are already emerging. In Hawaii, the Democratic governor is considering deeper cuts to teacher salaries as early as May 1.

For the last several weeks, K-12 analysts have assumed that districts wouldn't see budget cuts until spring of 2021 because the federal government sent out a \$13.5 billion stimulus fund, states have stored up billions of dollars in rainy day funds and because making mid-year cuts to public schools is so politically unappealing and disruptive.

States have already lost tens of billions of dollars for the last quarter of this fiscal year and will likely lose hundreds of billions more in the 2021 year as federal and state governments struggle to contain the spread of the coronavirus. The Center of Budget and Policy Priorities has estimated that states will collectively lose close to \$500 billion next fiscal year.

Be sure to check out the questionnaire "How Much Do You Know About Digital Learning" from *Education Week*. It reflects the understanding of the current digital learning that educators were abruptly forced to adapt. This questionnaire and all articles printed here may be found in their entirety on the Lake County Retired Teachers website at:

[www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com](http://www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com)

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

*By Louise Bennet*



The Covid19 virus has caused everything in our lives to change...or has it? Certainly not in the functioning of Community Participation where the need to help others has been greatly enhanced. Since we are unable to hold our luncheon in June, there is no designation to which we can direct our help. However, that is not enough to hold teachers back from showing their caring side. Please read on for some suggestions for us to do just that; perhaps there will be one or two that have not occurred to you.

We hear everyday about those in need of food. Your church may have a food pantry, as does St. Gabriel. Other places to contribute food items are the Salvation Army on Pearl Street in Painesville, United Way on Heisley Road in Mentor, and Concord Township is asking residents to drop off items at the Town Hall through the end of May. I also understand there is a food drive going on inside the food court at the Great Lakes Mall. Many people are donating all or part of their stimulus checks to help the less fortunate, or even to a favorite charity or an alma mater that has suffered a financial hit from our current conditions. Perhaps you have a family member who really could benefit from your financial help at this time. We are also helping others when we purchase items and order take-out meals, in an indirect way.

Another way is the "cost" of our time, such as picking up a neighbor if you are going out, or maybe include them in your pick up order. Use your phone or write a note to send a friendly "Hello" to someone you know who lives alone. Display your American Flag. Use scraps of cloth to make facial masks for others. There are many suggestions on the internet on ways to do this, both with and without the use of a sewing machine.

Feeling short tempered? Remind yourself that, we hope, everyone is doing his/her best under the current circumstances. Give thanks silently, or aloud when the occasion arises, to all of our community heroes. Allow someone else to give you a helping hand if it is offered; It will allow your heart to feel good. Share a smile with others; even though it won't be seen through the mask you are wearing. Perhaps your eyes will wrinkle which will alert others that you are smiling.

In Memoriam

John Goertz  
Victor McIntire  
Tom Houston



We send our condolences to the families of these members.

## Member Scam E-mail Notice

This notice was received on 5/14/20

Dear ORTA Member,

You may have received an email in your inbox claiming to be from our ORTA President Kara Mendenhall.

The email says:

*"Hello (member name),*

*Are you available to assist? I am out of the state now, serving on an emergency team and I've got credence in you to take care of this. I would have called your phone but I presently do not have access to my mobile phone. Retired Teachers Association needs some gift cards for donation to Veterans at Hospice and Palliative care units for preventive items from Corona Disease (COVID-19). I have decided to make it a personal duty. I will be responsible for the reimbursement.*

*President,*

*Kara Mendenhall, ORTA*

**Please be advised that this is NOT an authorized message or request from ORTA, Kara Mendenhall or any other member of our organization.**

**Please disregard this spammed message, and delete it from your inbox.**

**We take member safety seriously, and are aware of financial scams during this difficult time targeting our most vulnerable communities.**

**This a nationwide scam that has been reported to the authorities at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the FBI's Internet Crime Division .**

If you continue to receive these messages, please contact our office, so we can continue to report to the correct officials.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Regards,

ORTA Staff and Executive Committee 614.431.7002

## Informative & Protective Services

By Terri Herbert

### Ohio Compliant License: Part 2

As promised, I did go to get my new Ohio Compliant License (DL-ID). I managed to get to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles before they were ordered to close. Other than a long wait (approximately an hour) the rest of the process went smoothly.

I used my current driver's license, my Social Security card, my passport and another item that contained my current physical address. If you have a passport **AND** it contains your current legal name, your Social Security card, your current license and one other item with your address on it you will have no problems. You will **NOT** need your marriage certificate, divorce decrees, etc.

The cost of my new license was \$20.50 as it is only good for a little under two(2) years. The full cost for either a new compliant license or to get a standard license is \$27.50. Both cost the same and both are good for four (4) years.

It is unclear what you will need to renew a new compliant license. Printed materials from the BMV say you will need the same documents that you needed to get your initial compliant license but clerks in the office say that you will not need any further documentation than your old compliant license.

Aside from travel within the U.S., you will also need a compliant license to enter Federal buildings such as Federal courthouses, VA hospitals and post offices.

When you leave the BMV you will **NOT** leave with your license in hand. You will be given your old license back with a series of small holes punched in it. You will also be issued a written document that you must use with your punched license. You will need this not only if you are stopped by the police, but also for bank transactions and other activities that require valid identification. You should receive your new license in the mail within 10 days. My license took 10 days to arrive.

The deadline for being able to travel domestically is October 1, 2020. I would not wait until too close to that date to obtain your new license if you want/need one. I would not go immediately after the BMV's are able to open after the COVID-19 shut down as they are very likely to be quite busy then too.

Stay healthy!

Volunteer Hours Form

Please cut out and mail this form to: Louise Bennett 7995 Burgundy Court, Painesville, Ohio 44077

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Caregiver Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

**APRIL–MAY VOLUNTEER HOURS**



## THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

[www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com](http://www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com)



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Please note: ALL INFORMATION, DEADLINES, AND EVENTS** are at the mercy of COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Please check the website for the most current information. We will proceed with plans until something gets cancelled.

June 19, 2020	Lake County Captains & Fireworks	Cancelled
July 30, 2020	Lakehouse Restaurant & Something Rotten	Cancelled
August 21, 2020	“Always Patsy Cline” at Rabbit Run	Cancelled
October 9-14, 2020	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta	
December 5-9, 2020	Biltmore & the Smokies at Christmas	

## 2020 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

**JUNE 10, 2020 - "CHICAGO" - FINE ARTS (CANCELLED)**  
**JUNE 19, 2020 - LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME (CANCELLED)**  
**JULY 30, 2020 - LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT & BECK CENTER (CANCELLED)**  
**AUGUST 21, 2020 - RABBIT RUN - "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE"(CANCELLED)**  
**OCTOBER 9 - 14, 2020 - ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA**  
**DECEMBER 5 - 9, 2020 - BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES**

**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.lertasotrav@gmail.com](mailto:oh.lertasotrav@gmail.com)

### SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

**ALL INFORMATION, DEADLINES, AND EVENTS are at the mercy of COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Be sure to check the website for the most current information. We will proceed with plans until something gets cancelled.**

**JUNE 19, 2020 LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME & FIREWORKS CANCELLED**

It is uncertain **when or if** the 2020 Captains season will begin. They are looking at the possibility of July for the start of baseball. **Information regarding refunds will be forthcoming.** If there is an opportunity to reschedule, we will.

**JULY 30, 2020 LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT & "SOMETHING ROTTEN" CANCELLED**

The Beck Center for the Arts has cancelled their entire summer 2020 theatrical season. Thus, our trip to Lakewood in July will also be cancelled. **Information regarding refunds will be forthcoming. Contact: Beverly Lee at 440-666-2058 or [Beverly.k.lee@gmail.com](mailto:Beverly.k.lee@gmail.com).** if you have any questions.

**AUGUST 21, 2020 "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE" AT RABBIT RUN CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, the Rabbit Run Theater has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Rabbit Run Theater season. **Information regarding refunds will be forthcoming.**

**OCTOBER 9 – 14, 2020 ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA**

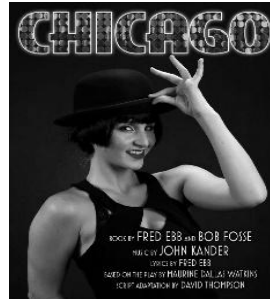
Join us on an exciting trip to New Mexico with Premier World Discovery Tours. Airfare is included to and from Cleveland. The **cost is \$2333 per person double occupancy** which includes a \$100 discount if final payment is made by check. The single supplement is \$675. **Final payment is due July 10, 2020.** The brochure and registration can be found on the LCRTA website. Please make checks payable to Premier World Discovery and send to **Sherry Barbieri at 38147 Poplar Dr., Willoughby, OH 44094. Contact: Sherry at 440-946-1628 or [sun\\_light@oh.rr.com](mailto:sun_light@oh.rr.com).** CALL FOR AVAILABILITY!!

CUT-----  
**JUNE 10, 2020 CHICAGO (CANCELLED) DUE: MAY 15, 2020**  
MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. Make check payable to LCRTA.  
Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for Chicago 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 2020

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 "LCRTA" and mailed to Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.



**WED., MAY 13, 2020**

**SPRING FLING CABARET**

**CANCELLED**

Due to restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic, this event has been cancelled. **Information regarding Refunds will be forthcoming.**

~~**WED., JUNE 10, 2020**~~

**CHICAGO (CANCELLED)**

**DUE: MAY 15, 2020**

The "Razzle Dazzle" musical that follows the merry murderesses of Cook County Jail in 1920's Chicago.

*Rated Mature*

## **DECEMBER 5 - 9, 2020 BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES AT CHRISTMAS**

Celebrate the Christmas Season on a motorcoach tour to the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, NC and Pidgeon Forge, TN. This is a 5 day, 4 night trip with Great Day Tours. It includes a day tour of Biltmore Estate (with headphones), dinner on the Biltmore grounds, candlelight evening Christmas tour of the Biltmore, plus attractions and three shows in Pidgeon Forge. Eight meals, accommodations, and motorcoach transportation are also included.

**Cost: \$1120 per person double and \$1270 per person for a single. Second payment due June 15, 2020 and final payment due October 5, 2020. PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO GREAT DAY!**

**TOURS and MAIL TO: Sarah Reinhard, 8677 Harvest Home Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Contact: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com). for availability and questions.**

# COME TRAVEL WITH LCRTA



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