



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 56 No.1

January, 2020

## CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

As we start the new year, I beg your indulgence to just be a bit philosophical, my version.

Do you remember the trepidation and fear of the unknown as we entered into the year 2000? All kinds of dire predictions were made, but we entered the third millennium without any catastrophic occurrences. The electric grid did not malfunction and leave us in the dark. Computers made the transition without shutting down. We survived to be able to continue our lives unimpeded. How has that worked for you?

Now try to go back over those last 20 years in your mind. What kind of accomplishments have been made in your life?....in our USA?....in the world? Do you feel that your part in the public education of the youth that you taught had an effect on the decisions that they are now making? Has your view of the world that you live in now changed from that of the past? In those 20 years, has progress been made in the problems that we saw in 1999?

We have lived in a memorable era with mind-boggling events. A few that left a lasting impression with me start with the assassination of JFK, explosion of the Challenger, landing on and exploring the moon, the blackout of 2003, the transplanting of a human heart, and so much more in technology and medicine.

It would be a lively discussion just to sit in front of a fireplace and reminisce about the happenings in our lives, good or bad. And it would be interesting(?) to be able to read a history book from 50 years in the future. Any takers on procuring one for us?

In closing, Terri and I, and the rest of the LCRTA Board, wish you the best in personal accomplishments and health for this new year.

*David Morse*

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS.....

Tom Moscovic

### It's A New Year with the Same Old Stuff ! 12 Critical Issues Facing Education in 2020

Education has many critical issues; although if you watch the nightly news or a 24/7 news channel, you most likely see very little when it comes to education. Our political climate has taken over the news, and it seems as though education once again takes a back seat to important political events as well as salacious stories about reality television stars. It sometimes makes me wonder how much education is valued?

Every year around this time, I highlight some critical issues facing education. I believe we should have a critical look at the issues we face in education, and create some dialogue and action around these issues, and talk about them sooner rather than later.

Clearly, the fact that we are entering in 2020 means we need to look at some of these issues with hindsight because we have seen them before. Have the issues of the past changed or do they continue to impact our lives? As with any list, you will notice one missing that you believe should be added. Please feel free to use social media to add the ones you believe should be there.

These issues are not ranked in order of importance. I actually developed a list of 20 critical issues but want to narrow it down to 12. They range from issues that impact our lives in negative ways to issues that impact our lives in positive ways, and I wanted to provide a list of issues I feel educators will believe are in their control.

I have spent the better part of 2019 on the road traveling across the U.S., Canada, Europe, the U.K. and Australia. The issues that are highlighted below have come up in most of these countries, but they will be particularly important for those of us living in the U.S. There are a couple that seem to be specifically a U.S. issue, and that will be obvious to you when you see them.

*Ed. Note: The remainder of this article is on page 2. It has been summarized due to space limitations. The article in its entirety may be found on the LCRTA Website. Check at:*

*<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/legislative-news.html>.*

*This information is from an education blog written by Peter Dewitt.*

**LCRTA Luncheon and Business Meeting  
February 11, 2020  
Kirtlander Party Center  
11:00am Social 11:30am Luncheon served  
RSVP by Friday, January 31, 2020**

**Program: Vernice Jackson:  
Portraying "Sally Hemmings"**

Legis. Continued:

**Health & Wellness:** Research shows that many of our students are stressed out, anxiety-filled, and at their breaking point. Teachers and leaders are experiencing those same issues....

**Literacy:** We have too many students not reading with proficiency, and therefore, at risk of missing out on the opportunity to reach their full potential....

**School Leadership:** Many school leaders enter into the position with high hopes of having a deep impact but are not always prepared for what they find....

**Our Perception of Students:** Sometimes we lower our expectations of students because of the background they come from....

**Cultures of Equity:** Students and the schools they attend need to be provided with equitable resources, and we know that is not happening....

**District Office/Building-Level Relationships:** There are too many school districts with a major disconnection between the district office and building level leaders....

**Politics:** It's an election year. We have to wonder how the campaigns and ultimate presidential decision will impact education because the last few education secretaries have not given us all that much to cheer about....

**Our Perception of Teachers:** Over the last few decades there has been a concerted effort to make teachers look as though they chose teaching because they could do nothing else. Teachers are educated, hardworking professionals who are trying to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of their students, which is not always easy....

**Vaping:** Vaping is a major health crisis. Reports show that there has been a major spike in the use of vaping in adolescents.

**Time on Task vs. Student Engagement....**It is time to focus on Student Engagement rather than Time on Task....

**Teachers With Guns:** Not an easy one to add to the list. More of this will be seen in 2020.

**Climate Change:** Young people will rise up and make climate change a critical issue in 2020.

It is always interesting to reflect on the year and begin compiling a list of critical issues. I know it can be daunting to look at, and begin to see where we fit into all of this, but I have always believed that education is about taking some of these critical issues and turning them around to make them better. Anyone who gets into teaching needs to believe that they can improve the educational experience for their students, and these are just a few places to start.

Congratulations to our Legislative Committee Chairperson **Tom Moscovic**. Tom was elected to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee in July. We wish him well in this experience.

## Luncheon Program Note:

The program for **February 11** is presented by Vernice Jackson of "Women in History." She is portraying Sally Hemings (1773-1835), one of the most famous African American women in US history.

Sally Hemings was born to slave master and sea captain, John Wayles and his slave Elizabeth "Betty" Hemings. John Wayles died the year Sally was born. Sally's family then became the property of Thomas Jefferson. Sally's eldest son, Madison Hemmings, accounts that Thomas Jefferson is the father of Sally's children.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

With our next luncheon meeting a couple of days before Valentine's Day, it is requested that you share a bit of your heart and something from your wallet to help those who frequent McKinley Community Outreach Center. Staffed by volunteers, residents of Willoughby and Lake County communities to the west who are in need of assistance find help there. In the past, there has been a focus on collecting taxable items (some examples found below), however other things are accepted also, so I thought I would provide you with examples of those options as well. A full list of accepted, and not accepted items can be found on the MCOC website. This is a location you may want to consider the next time you clean out your cupboards and closets. Although the days of the week and hours that donations are accepted are limited, dropping off items is easy; just pull up to the curb and a volunteer will come out to gather your donation.



Feeding the Community

**TAXABLES:** dish soap, liquid household cleaner, paper towels, toilet tissue, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

**FOOD:** cereal, peanut butter, jelly, tuna, rice, soup (especially tomato and cream of mushroom), canned fruit and vegetables

**OTHER:** kitchen utensils, glassware, pots and pans, books, drapes, sheets, towels, dry cat food, cat litter.

Thank you in advance for helping to display the big hearts of LCRTA members by bringing the items listed above to our February meeting. All donations are appreciated.



IN MEMORIUM

Our sympathies to the family of

Ann Kassing

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation Form

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland

**DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2020**

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 **\$16.50** per person

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

(Please list all attending)

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

Lunch ( Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Scallopini \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetable Lasagna

Includes: Garden Salad, Skin on Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans/Almonds, rolls/ butter, Sheet Cake, Beverages

**PLEASE NOTE: \$.50 RAISE IN FOOD COST FOR 2020**

## INFORMATIVE AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES

By Terri Herbert



### Vaccines for Grandparents

Staying up-to-date on our immunizations is important to most of us. If you are not up-to-date and may be spending time with a newborn you may want to re-think that. In fact, it is not uncommon today for young and/or expectant parents to request their grandparents to update their immunizations.

Whooping cough (pertussis) is the most needed vaccine. Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory illness that is one the rise. While people of any age can get whooping cough (hmm...think I got that shot in the '50s???), infants are especially vulnerable. They usually get their first vaccine at 2 months (if the parents agree) but are vulnerable until at least 6 months. Half of all infants who get whooping cough before 1 year of age need to be hospitalized.

Other vaccines you may want to ask your primary care practitioner about include:

- **Flu Vaccine:** Getting an annual flu vaccine protects you and any young children you are in contact with from serious risk.
- **Pneumonia Vaccine:** A serious health lung infection that may be caused by bacteria, virus or fungus. Adults over 65 are advised to get both the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (CVV13) and the pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23)

- **Shingles Vaccine:** Anyone who has ever had Chicken Pox can get shingles. But the risk of shingles increases as we get older. In addition, people who have an active shingles virus can spread it to INFANTS. (not generally contagious to other adults) If you received a shingles vaccine years ago you need to get the updated vaccine. It is a series of 2 injections, 2 months apart.

If you are not sure which vaccines you should get, talk to your doctor. He or she can help you determine what is best for your health as well as the health of children you spend time with.



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

By Tim Niederkorn

Letters were sent to high school guidance counselors last month to announce the LCRTA Scholarship for 2020. Applications are being accepted and interviews are scheduled for May 5 & 6.

Once again the Scholarship Committee will be hosting three Dine-to-Donate Fundraisers. The programs are:  
Tues., February 18, TGI Friday's (11:00am to 12 mid)  
Wed., March 4, Max & Erma's (11:00am to 10:00pm)  
Thurs. April 16, Baker's Square (7:00 am to 10:00pm)

Mark your calendar and bring a flier to the event! Fliers will be distributed at our luncheons and are available at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/scholarship>





**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



**Scholarship continued....**

There is no extra charge for a Dine to Donate event. You only pay for what you order, and a percentage of your bill comes back to LCRTA. It is a great time to socialize with friends while raising funds for the LCRTA Scholarship program at the same time.

Donations for the Scholarship program can be made at our luncheons or by mailing a check payable to LCRTA to Pat Humphrey, 7330 Holly Park, Concord, OH 44060. Please memo "Scholarship" on your check. Also, consider LCRTA in your estate planning, by bequeathing a donation to the Scholarship Fund in your will.

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS:**

A special thank you to all of our members who "beat" the deadline for paying the membership renewal dues. I appreciate your promptness. Your names will appear in the yearbook. If you do not want your name in the book, please let me know-[sawitke@oh.rr.com](mailto:sawitke@oh.rr.com)

If you have not yet paid dues for 2020, please send your check ASAP. Mail it to:

Karen Sawitke, 9399 Ridgeside Dr.  
 Mentor, Ohio 44060



**MARK YOUR  
 CALENDAR**

- FEBRUARY 11 - Luncheon & Meeting
- FEBRUARY 18 - Scholarship Fundraiser  
 TGI Friday's (11am to 12 midnight)
- MARCH 4 - A Stroll Down Broadway-Fine Arts
- MARCH 4 - Scholarship Fundraiser  
 Max & Erma's (11am to 10pm)
- APRIL 14 - Joint Luncheon Meeting with GCRTA  
 Kirtlander Party Center
- APRIL 16 - Scholarship Fundraiser  
 Baker's Square (7am to 10pm)
- MAY 6 - A Spring Fling Cabaret-Fine Arts
- MAY 7-9 - Holland Tulip Festival
- JUNE 9 - Luncheon & Meeting  
 Grant recipients and Scholarship Winners
- JUNE 10 - "Chicago" Fine Arts (Save the Date)
- JUNE 19 - Lake County Captains Game

**2020 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR**

**MARCH 4, 2020 - A STROLL DOWN BROADWAY - FINE ARTS**  
**MAY 6, 2020 - A SPRING FLING CABARET - FINE ARTS**  
**MAY 7 - 9, 2020 - HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL**  
**JUNE 10, 2020 - "CHICAGO" - FINE ARTS - (SAVE THE DATE)**  
**JUNE 19, 2020 - LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME**  
**JULY 30, 2020 - LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT & BECK CENTER**  
**AUGUST 21, 2020 - RABBIT RUN - "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE"(SAVE THE DATE)**  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 - WINERY TOUR - (SAVE THE DATE)**  
**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.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com](mailto:oh.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com)

**SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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

**MAY 7 - 9, 2020 HOLLAND, MICHIGAN TULIP FESTIVAL WITH SHOWS DEPOSIT DUE:ASAP**  
Join us on a 3 day, 2 night trip with Great Day Tours. This trip includes a luncheon show, Windmill Island, Dutch Village, "Gladys Knight" Headliner Show, tour of Holland, MI, reserved seats for the parade, motorcoach transportation, five meals, and accommodations. **Cost: \$534.60 pp. double, \$674.60 pp. single. Contact: Kathy Kling at 440-487-3806** for availability.

**JUNE 19, 2020 LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME & FIREWORKS DUE: JUNE 3, 2020**  
Grab your mitt and join us for an exciting game with the Lake County Captains against the West Michigan Whitecaps at Classic Park with fireworks following the game. **Order form is available on our website** includes many options for meal vouchers, kids zone wristband, merchandise voucher, and parking passes. **Cost: \$9 for game tickets. Checks payable to "LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS" and send order form to Sherry Niederkorn.** Contact Sherry at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com with any questions.

CUT -----  
**JULY 30, 2020 LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT & "SOMETHING ROTTEN" DUE: JULY 1, 2020**

MAIL TO: Beverly Lee, 7265 Players Club, Concord, OH 44077. Make check payable to LCRTA.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_places for the restaurant and "Something Rotten" at **\$86 per person.**

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

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

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

CUT -----  
**MAY 6, 2020 A SPRING FLING CABARET DUE: APR. 3, 2020**

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_tickets for A Spring Fling Cabaret 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 "LCRTA" and mailed to **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.**



**Bob Godfrey**



**WED., MAR. 4, 2020**

**A STROLL DOWN BROADWAY**

**DUE: FEB. 7, 2020**

Bob Godfrey performs Broadway melodies from his favorite roles including The Music Man, Sweeney Todd, Man of La Mancha, Footloose, Fiddler on the Roof, and more. *Rated G.*

**WED., MAY 6, 2020**

**SPRING FLING CABARET**

**DUE: APR. 3, 2020**

David Malinowski and friends return with their zany antics. This time they will help you fling away the winter doldrums and brighten your day with spring inspired comedy and songs. *Rated G.*

**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).**

**DECEMBER 5 - 9, 2020 BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES AT CHRISTMAS DEPOSIT DUE: ASAP**

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. Contact: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com) for availability. Checks payable to GREAT DAY TOURS.** Visit the website for a registration form

# 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.