



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 56 No. 2

March, 2020

Co-President's Message.....

Well, we made it through the latest crisis, or, at least, I hope that most of you did. No, not the virus, but the advent of Daylight Savings Time. Every year that this event occurs, we bemoan the loss of that hour. Indeed, many states are now preparing again to opt out of participating in the practice of 'jumping ahead' or 'springing ahead' and 'falling back' in future years. Do you understand why this is done? One of the latest reasons that I read was to conserve candles.

Mine is not to answer the questions that I pose, just to present them for your consideration.

The front page of the Plain Dealer, February 29, 2020 issue, was this headline: "Tired of leap day? How about leap week?" Here are a few of the main parts of this idea.

1. All years would start of January 1.
2. All other days of the week would fall on the same days and date each year.
3. All holidays would fall on Mondays, except the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving, thus providing several long weekends.
4. Each year would be divided into four 3 month quarters of 91 days each, and 52 seven day weeks.
5. So that the calendar is in line with the astronomical calendar, a full week is tacked on in the years of 2020, 2026, 2023, 2037, 2043, 2048 and so on.

I leave the above as a stand alone compilation of information to do with as you see fit, and I refer you to the date of the Plain Dealer (above) if you wish to follow up in any intellectual manner.

Stay up to date on any potential changes in the current plan be checking the LCRTA website for up to date news.

David Morse

Vouchers, EdChoice and Your Taxes

By Tom Moscovic

Note: All dollars that are earmarked for vouchers are taken from your taxes and reduce the funding to your local Public Schools resulting in the need for local school levies.

SB89 Could Prevent Disaster for Ohio Public Schools - Stephen Deyer

Without legislative action, Ohio public schools face a funding crisis as expanded eligibility for private school vouchers could drain local school districts of state funding necessary to operate.

The latest data from the Ohio Legislature Commission clearly shows the House-passed changes to the EdChoice voucher program (contained in amendments to Senate Bill 89) would offer a needed reprieve to children in public school districts across the state when compared to the status quo if nothing changes.

Lawmakers are currently debating two solutions to the voucher crisis, but the House plan, contained in Senate Bill 89, is preferred by most education groups. That's because Senate Bill 89 eliminates the performance-based EdChoice voucher which awards students a private school voucher if their local school building fails on even a single state report card measure. Recent changes to state report cards have driven a huge increase in the number of districts slated to lose students and funding as early as next year.

If left unchecked, 1,227 buildings-more than 1/3 of all Ohio public school buildings-would qualify for a voucher next year, potentially increasing the amount of money spent on the state's 5 voucher programs to \$500million or more a year. Senate Bill 89 would reduce the expansion in buildings losing funding and students to vouchers by significantly limiting eligibility for any new vouchers based on school building "performance" (as measured by state report cards).

Senate Bill 89 retains the state's other income-based version of the EdChoice voucher, which would be limited to families earning up to 300 percent of poverty. Under the plan, the state would begin directly funding vouchers, eliminating the transfer of taxpayer dollars meant for kids in local public schools to private schools.





LUNCHEON MEETING
 April 14, 2020
 Kirtlander Party Center
 9270 Chillicothe Road
 Kirtland

THIS MEETING
HAS BEEN CANCELED

(Legislative continued)

Here is how it plays out for a few key State Senators who would need to vote to agree to House changes to Senate Bill 89 for it to become law:

Buildings at risk of Voucher Funding Losses: Status Quo vs. SB 89

Senator	<i>The Problem</i>		<i>The Proposal</i>
	2019-20 School Yr.	2020-2021 No changes	If SB89 passes 2020-2021
Dolan	8	24	3
Hottinger	12	59	0
Kunze	4	32	2
Obhof	7	31	3
Peterson	18	62	6

Please note that a school district is counted as part of the Senate District if the Senator represents 10% or more of the school district. The impacts on many vulnerable lawmakers in an election year are stark.

If Senate Bill 89 were to become law, Franklin County Senator Stephanie Kunze would see the number of voucher-eligible buildings set to lose students and funding to private schools in the 2020-2021 school year go from 32 to just two. Similarly, Cuyahoga County's Senator Matt Dolan would see eligible buildings plunge from 24 to 3.

Even members of Senate leadership would see major benefits from the passage of Senate Bill 89. State Senator Joy Hottinger, in line to have 59 voucher-designated buildings in his senate district next year, would see that number drop to zero under Senate Bill 89, while Senator Bob Peterson would see his district's 62 voucher-eligible buildings drop to 6. Even Senate President Larry Obhof would see his buildings drop from 31 to 3.

Statewide, under Senate Bill 89, the number of eligible buildings would drop from potentially 1,227 next school year to just 343.

Should State Roll Back Expansion of Voucher Program?

An editorial by Scott DiMauro, President OEA 1/27/2020

Ohio's EdChoice voucher program is exploding well beyond its original intent. It's draining critical resources from public schools across the state and depriving our students of the critical resources they need for success. This is wrong. A fix is urgently needed.

Ohio's school voucher program, which provides funding to families to cover the cost of private school tuition, began in Cleveland in 1995. Now, in addition to the Cleveland program, there are four more voucher programs targeting students with autism, students with special needs, certain students from low income families, and students in schools labeled as failing due to the state's flawed state report card system.

Because of the expiration of "safe harbor" protections that prevented the voucher expansion as Ohio's state testing system was changing and other policy changes enacted

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet



Feeding the Community

The day following our February luncheon, I made my way to the McKinley Community Outreach Center on Lost Nation Road in Willoughby to deliver our donations. A huge **THANK YOU!** To all who helped make it a Lovely, Completely Remarkable, Totally Awesome outing as the back AND back seat of my SUV was filled with your contributions. Those who came out with shopping carts to gather our goods were so very appreciative and almost overwhelmed! LCRTA is the BEST!

The next group which could use our help is the Salvation Army on Pearl Street in Painesville. Many of all ages find help at this location. The person with whom I spoke reported that they are **NOT** in need of paper goods, but do need food. The suggestions were canned food, with a focus on corn, fruit and pasta sauce. Also mentioned was "kid-friendly" cereal.

I went on and asked about the need for clothes as I understand that this location hands out clothing, at no cost, once a week. Clean, season-appropriate clothing would be well-received in addition to our contribution of food items. Please try to bring at least one item to the April luncheon meeting for the Salvation Army. Let's fill my SUV again!

in last year's budget, the number of public schools designated at EdChoice schools has skyrocketed.

As an educator and public school advocate, I am deeply committed to the success of every student. I chose to be a teacher because I wanted to inspire my students' natural curiosity, imagination and desire to learn. All students, regardless of where they live, deserve the support, tools, and time to learn.

A child's opportunity for success should not be left to chance - whether it's a charter school lottery or a private school voucher. All children need high-quality, well equipped local schools where they can learn and thrive.

Ohio's voucher programs drain needed resources from the approximately 90% of students who attend Ohio's local public schools. While voucher supporters are really about subsidizing tuition for students in private schools. Diverting resources from public schools has serious consequences: larger class sizes, reduced curriculum offerings, fewer dollars to address the health and wellness of our students.

It is especially ironic and cruel that districts given funding for wraparound services in the last budget have lost more to voucher deductions than they gained in new student wellness funds. To add insult to injury, the

THE APRIL 14TH MEETING OF THE LAKE COUNTY RTA AND THE GEAUGA COUNTY RTA HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Informative & Protective Services By Terri Herbert

“NEW” Ohio Compliant License

Well, not really new but it is time to pay attention. Most of us have an Ohio Driver’s License (or other form of State issued I.D.) But when was it issued?

Personally, mine is good for another two years but after October 1, 2020 it might not work for much (other than driving). The Federal government has changed some laws to increase security (2015) but October 1, 2020 is the deadline for compliance. After that date you must have a “Real ID” in order to fly domestically and to enter some government buildings.

In order to get the REAL ID you must prove your identity by showing proof of the following elements: full legal name, date of birth, legal presence in the US, Social Security number and Ohio street address. You can get a list of all acceptable documents on-line from the BMV website at www.bmv.ohio.gov but here is a brief summary.

A US birth certificate, passport or passport card proves full legal name, date of birth and legal presence in the US. A Social Security card, W-2Wage/Tax Form or 1099 Income Statement proves Social Security number. There are many way to prove Ohio Street Address. You must bring TWO items from a long list to prove your address. One can be your current expired license. Another can be a utility bill, credit card bill, bank statement or any other item from the extensive list.

What if your current full legal name is NOT the same as the name listed on your identity document? In that case you may need to present additional documents such as a marriage certificate or marriage license, certified copy of a divorce degree, dissolution or annulment of marriage and/or certified copy of a court ordered name change. If you have more than one marriage you MAY need to bring documentation from each marriage and/or divorce to connect your birth certificate, passport or USCIS documents to your legal name.

Clear as mud as to what to bring, right? You do not have to get the Real ID, but not having it may cause some limitations for you. Prices are different to just renew your old license or to upgrade to a Real ID. Also, there may be a price difference if it is issued for less than the full amount of time.

Although my license is good for another two years I will attempt to upgrade it in the next month and provide you with a follow-up article to let you know how it goes. I will plan to have plenty of documentation available but since my passport has my current full legal name I am guessing all I will need is my passport, Social Security card, current license and one other proof of Ohio street address (as my mail is delivered to a PO Box rather than my street address, I can not use a utility or other bill). I will also try to get more information as to the cost for Real ID vs Standard License and if my new Real ID will be good for only two years or for more. Look for a follow up with more information in the next *Bellringer*.

(Continued-Voucher Program pg. 2)

EdChoice program means not only fewer state dollars for Ohio’s public school students, but the diversion of locally generated funds through a formula that deducts dollars from state payments to districts that typically exceed the amount of money the state provides to those districts on a per-pupil basis.

When taxpayers vote for a levy, they don’t expect that their property taxes are going to fund private schools, but that is exactly what is happening. The ballooning number of school buildings designated for EdChoice is based on Ohio’s broken report card system. The way the law is written a school can be considered “failing” and subject to vouchers even if it has an A, B, or C as an overall grade on the report card. The way the current scheme works, buildings are considered EdChoice eligible if they have a D or F, for example, for K-3 literacy. This is wrong.

Almost half of Ohio’s school buildings receive a D or F

in K-3 literacy, a grade they can receive even if over 90% of their students pass the third grade reading guarantee. The sad irony of this policy is that private schools that take the vouchers don’t have any report cards. Parents don’t get an apples-to-apples comparison. In fact, a study of Ohio’s EdChoice program found that the voucher participants fared worse on state tests compared with their closely matched peers in public schools. That’s wrong, and it’s time for a change.

Even those who support vouchers should be able to agree that providing “choice” to some students shouldn’t come at the expense of other students.

Unfortunately, because of the way in which EdChoice vouchers are funded, the opposite is true. That’s wrong, and lawmakers need to act quickly to fix the EdChoice voucher program.



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



58940



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 14, 2020....**LUNCHEON HAS BEEN CANCELED**
- May 6, 2020A Spring Fling Cabaret - Fine Arts
- May 7-9, 2020.....Holland Tulip Festival (Closed)
- June 10, 2020“Chicago” - Fine Arts
- June 19, 2020.....Lake County Captains Game

KEEP INFORMED BY CHECKING www.lakecountyrta@weebly.com

Volunteer Hours November 2019-March 2020

Name _____

Phone _____

Caregiver hours _____ Volunteer Hours _____

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

**Louise Bennet
 7995 Burgundy Lane
 Painesville, Ohio 44077**

2020 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

MAY 6, 2020 - A SPRING FLING CABARET - FINE ARTS
MAY 7 - 9, 2020 - HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL (CLOSED)
JUNE 10, 2020 - "CHICAGO" - FINE ARTS
JUNE 19, 2020 - LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME
JULY 30, 2020 - LAKEHOUSE RESTAURANT & BECK CENTER
AUGUST 21, 2020 - RABBIT RUN - "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE"
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 - WINERY TOUR - (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.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 (CLOSED)

Final payment due March 24, 2020 to **GREAT DAY! TOURS**. Contact is **Kathy Kling at 440-487-3806**.

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. **The order form on our website** includes many options. **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.

CUT-----
AUGUST 21, 2020 RABBIT RUN'S "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE" DUE: JULY 23, 2020

MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. Make check payable to **LCRTA**. Please reserve ___ tickets for "Always Patsy Cline" at **\$23 per ticket**. Please indicate number ___ who plan to join the optional pre-show dinner at Joey's Restaurant. **Reservations are required!**

NAME _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

Please list name(s) and contact information separately if additional members/guests are included on this form
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 ___ seats for the restaurant and "Something Rotten" at **\$86 per person**.

Dinner Choice: ___ Perch ___ Chicken ___ Steak **Dessert choice:** ___ Rice Pudding ___ Cheesecake

NAME _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

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

JUNE 10, 2020 CHICAGO 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
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.

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.**



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.*

WED., JUNE 10, 2020 CHICAGO DUE: MAY 15, 2020

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

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

Dinner and a show, with transportation, is being offered to Lakewood. **Only 30 seats available.** We will meet at the Presbyterian Church on Shankland Blvd. in Willoughby at 4:15 PM. Our bus heads to Lindy's Lakehouse Restaurant for dinner and a view of Lake Erie. Then we will head to the Beck Center to enjoy the hilarious performance of "Something Rotten." **Book ASAP. Cost: \$86 per person** includes meal, transportation, gratuities, and the theater ticket. **Contact: Beverly Lee at 440-666-2058 or Beverly.k.lee@gmail.com.**

AUGUST 21, 2020 "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE" AT RABBIT RUN DUE: JULY 23, 2020

This show is based on a true story of Cline's friendship with a fan and includes many of her unforgettable hits. Dinner is optional at Joey's Italian Grille in Madison. Transportation is not included and the meal is ordered from a menu with payment on your own. **Cost: \$23 per ticket and includes a treat at intermission. Contact: Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com.**

OCTOBER 9 – 14, 2020 ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA DEPOSIT DUE: APRIL 3, 2020

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. A **\$300 deposit is due by April 3, 2020** as long as space is available. **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.** If you have questions, contact Sherry at 440-946-1628 or 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.** for availability.

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.