



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 56 No. 4

August, 2020

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE.....**

### **Nominating Committee and Elections**

Here we are in the middle of 2020 and still trying to make decisions for the remainder of the year. We are unable to contact The Kirtlander despite several attempts and a visit to the business. Also, a consideration in determining what we would do with our remaining two meetings is the distancing requirement of six feet. The realistic decision is to simply **cancel the in-person luncheon meetings** for the remainder of the year. This is the decision that has been approved by the Board, so you can update your calendars to reflect these cancellations.

At the same time we need to look at keeping our organization functioning and up-to-date. With that thought in mind, Susan McCarter has volunteered to chair the nominating committee. Our By-Laws read: *"The officers of the chapter shall be elected at the September meeting in even numbered years for a term of two years. Installation shall take place at the November general meeting following the election. They shall take office the first of January at the beginning of the fiscal year which shall be from January 1 to December 31, inclusive."* If you are interested in volunteering for one of the offices, please contact **Susan McCarter (440-639-1141)** or **sumac29@roadrunner.com** and let her know to add your name to the slate of candidates.

President-elect **Virginia Keller** will be advancing to the Presidency. She will need a President-elect to work with for the next two years. Also up for election are the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

### **ZOOM meetings for September and November**

Since we will not be having in-person meetings for September and November, we will be using the internet, US Mail and Zoom for mass communications with the membership. The LCRTA Board has had several meetings via Zoom. (A special THANK YOU to Sherry Niederkorn for teaching us all how to use this and setting up our meetings. As always any member is welcome to join with us on any of our Executive Board meetings. If you are interested in attending/watching our Board meetings on Monday, October 5, 2020 or Monday November 30, 2020 please join us on Zoom (directions in the next column). Meetings will begin at 1:00PM.

### **General Membership Meeting on Zoom**

On Monday, **September 14, 2020, at 11:30AM** Dave and I would like to try to hold a General Membership Meeting using Zoom. This would be the date of our always popular Candidate's Meeting. While we will not have the candidates present, you can join Dave, Terri and the rest of the Board and interested members via Zoom just to catch up and see one another. You will need to have a computer with a camera and a microphone to fully participate. If you do not have those functions, you can participate in the audio with any type of phone.

You will be receiving an email containing a Zoom invitation for both the practice session at 11:30AM and the 1:00PM Board meeting. This email will be sent to the membership the morning of the August 3rd meeting. If you have questions, you may contact Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or **sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com**. If you need training to use Zoom, please attend the 11:30 session.\*

*\* In preparation for using Zoom, go to 'zoom.com' and download the app to your PC. Notice on the Zoom homepage that the site offers many tutorials for using Zoom. Try one for beginners. YOU CAN DO THIS!*

### **Names of candidates for the Board elections will be sent Mid-August.**

Candidates for the three offices and a ballot for your choices will be sent in mid-August via U.S. Mail. Directions for completing and returning the ballot will be sent with the ballot. Plan on returning your completed ballot by **August 30, 2020 to Terri Herbert. An address sticker and a post card stamp will be provided.**

Results of the election will be announced at the MONDAY, September 14, 2020 meeting, which will be a Zoom Meeting. Exact time for the start of this meeting will be announced.

Another invaluable tool for communication is our website on the internet. Sherry has written a detailed description of the site and what it has to offer the membership. This can also be found in this newsletter.

As always, we hope that you are staying active, healthy and safe. This is certainly a very different and difficult year for all of us. Things will improve. We look forward to seeing you on Zoom in 2020 and in-person in 2021.

*Terri Herbert & Dave Morris, Co-Presidents*

## Hope You are Safe, Masked, Distanced, and Sanitized!!

Tom Moscovici, Legislative Committee

### CDC Does Not Recommend Schools Test All Students and Staff for Coronavirus

New Federal coronavirus guidance does not recommend universal testing for all students and staff in K-12 schools, an idea that had been floated as educators and policymakers seek ways to safely return students to their classrooms after extended building shutdowns. The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recommendations suggest testing efforts for K-12 students should focus on those with symptoms of the virus and those who may have had exposure to infected individuals. Universal testing may be logistically challenging and disruptive, creating concerns about issues like resources, parental consent, and student privacy, says the guidance, which was released Wednesday evening.

“Universal SARS-CoV-2 testing of all students and staff in school settings has been systematically studied,” the CDC says. “It is not known if testing in school settings provides any additional reduction in person-to-person transmission of the virus beyond what would be expected with implementation of other infection preventative measures (e.g. social distancing, cloth face covering, hand washing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting). Therefore, CDC does not recommend universal testing of all students and staff.”

Federal public health officials have said in congressional hearings that increasing access to testing for the general public will be necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as the country reopens schools and businesses. Broader testing efforts may help address one concern: Many infected individuals do not initially show symptoms of the virus, and some never will, which means they can unknowingly spread it.

“All roads back to work and school lead through testing,” Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee, said at a May meeting. He suggested a college president or a middle school principal may want to test all students and staff to aid reopening. But the CDC recommendations call for a more-targeted approach for most K-12 schools. And they say that school staff should not be expected to administer the tests, refer students and staff to outside health providers or school based clinics if they have the capability to conduct testing.”

“In some circumstances, school-based health-care providers (e.g. school nurses, physicians) may conduct SARS-CoV-2 testing in their capacity as health-care providers, such as in school-based health centers,” the CDC says. “Not every school-based health-care provider will have the resources or training to conduct testing, and accordingly, should not feel compelled to do so; these providers can help link students and their families and staff to opportunities for testing in the community.”



## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

*By Louise Bennet*



We hear we are living “a new normal.” Let’s consider it a “temporary new normal.” Those who volunteer know that their routine of doing so has changed, either due to personal choice or because their services are not wanted in the present environment. We, however, can continue to offer help to our communities as retired teachers in some fairly easy ways as outlined below.

**The Lake Humane Society** has a bin just outside their door on Tyler Blvd. in Mentor so that donations may be left there with no contact with others. A Wish list can be found on their website. Items such as paper towels, bottles of bleach, and pate cat food are always appreciated.

**Hope Chest** in Painesville is accepting donations Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 9:30AM and 12:30PM. Simply pull up to the dock behind Victoria Place off of South St. Clair St. and call 796-4315 to alert a volunteer who will come down to accept your donations of clothing, household goods, new shoes, socks, and underwear for children among other items.

At this time, **McKinley Outreach Center** on Lost Nation Road in Willoughby is only accepting food and items referred to as taxable such as; toothpaste, shampoo, laundry soap, and other similar items. Pull up in front of the building between 9AM and 1PM, Monday-Thursday, and someone will come out to retrieve your donation. Of course, all three of these agencies would welcome monetary gifts.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS for June-August are being accepted now. Please send your hours to:**

**Louise Bennet,**

**7995 Burgundy Court, Painesville, Ohio 44077**

Testing plans should be created in consultation with local health officials, the agency says. And they should be a part of a “comprehensive strategy” that includes “promoting behaviors that reduce spread, maintaining healthy environments, maintaining healthy operations, and preparing for when someone gets sick.”

Many school districts, following guidance from their states, have already said they will regularly screen students of COVID-19 symptoms, even taking the temperature to check for fevers before they enter buses or buildings. That sort of screening is “one of the many different tools” schools can use to lower risk, but it won’t catch asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic cases, the CDC says.

When students or staff show symptoms, schools should immediately isolate them until they can return home or to a health-care provider, the guidance says. A school should work with local health officials to trace contacts and determine who should be referred for testing.

## Ohio Drops in National Rankings of Childhood Well-Being;

### Ranks in Bottom Half of States, in Majority of Indicators

Ohio ranked 31st of all states in the country for overall childhood well-being, according to the annual report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The Kids Count Report ranking, which uses 2018 data, is a drop in the rankings for the state. Last year, Ohio ranked 27th in overall childhood well-being. The report uses 16 indicators, partially pulled from U.S. Census Data, to determine the rankings. Those indicators are grouped into four areas: economic, education, health, and family and community.

Ohio ranked in the bottom half of the country in 10 of the 16 indicators. The biggest drop in rankings for an individual area was in education. The state dropped eight spots between 2017 and 2018. Indicators in that area included:

...Young children ages three and four not in school: 56%

...Fourth graders not proficient in reading: 64%

...Eighth graders not proficient in math: 62%

...High school students not graduating on time: 18%

The percentages for eighth graders not proficient in math and high school students not graduating on time are both improvements from about 10 years ago, but the percentage of young children not in school is worse. The 64% total for fourth graders not proficient in reading is about the same. Full ranking comparisons for the four indicator areas are:

#### **Economic:**

2017 date: 23rd

2018 date: 27th

#### **Education:**

2017 data: 16th

2018 data: 28th

#### **Health:**

2017 data: 29th

2018 Data: 31st

#### **Family and Community:**

2017 data: 31st

2018 data: 32nd

The Children's Defense fund issues a release on the report on Monday, noting the backslide on many indicators was alarming. Though the data is from before the coronavirus pandemic, Executive Director Tracy Najera said in the release that the indicators can serve as a reminder of what needs to be prioritized moving forward.

"Ohio has an opportunity to protect child well-being as we move into the recovery phase of this pandemic," Najera said. "These measures must stay front and center as we make crucial decisions in response to the health crisis and the resulting budget crisis. We cannot allow our children and families to move backwards."

## Utilizing the LCRTA Website

<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com>

The website for the Lake County Retired Teachers Association can be found at the web address above. You may also do a search for "Lake County Retired Teachers Association Ohio" to get the website.

The LCRTA website is a handy tool for finding information about the organization and for keeping current on LCRTA events. Clicking on the tabs across the top, will give you access to the following pages:

**WELCOME...** has the information on the Purpose of the Organization. Viewers can also click on the link on this page to see the most current edition of the *Bell-ringer* Newsletter.

**ABOUT LCRTA...** gives the history of how the organization was founded, how the luncheons began and welcomes membership from several school districts throughout the county.

**OFFICERS & COMMITTEES...** has a wonderful photo of our current officers, gives the name of the officers, and lists the Chairman of each of the committees.

**MEETINGS...** gives the frequency and dates of the Luncheon meetings and Board Meetings. It also indicates the address of where to send your reservation form for the Luncheon meetings.

**MINUTES...** for all meetings can be found by clicking on the sentence, "Click here to read the minutes from previous meetings" on the MEETINGS page, or by going to the "MINUTES" tab under "MEETINGS" for a list-by-date archived.

**Under the "more..." tab, viewers can find the following pages:**

**MEMBERSHIP...** types of memberships, how to become an LCRTA member, cost of dues, membership form and address of where to send them.

**SOCIAL/TRAVEL...** information & photos about the trips and events planned by the Social/Travel Committee. Fliers & Registration forms may be downloaded from this page.

**SCHOLARSHIP & GRANTS...** description of the two types of awards given by LCRTA.

**SCHOLARSHIPS NEWS...** purpose & process of awarding Scholarships and a list of names of the recipients.

**ACTIVE TEACHER GRANTS...** guidelines & procedures for submitting Grant Applications and a list of names of the recipients.



## THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO

Website continued...

**CALENDAR**...a current listing of all LCRTA meetings, luncheons, trips, and deadlines are presented in Calendar form. Subscribers can see this information in their phones as well.

**CONSTITUTION**...the eight Articles and Standing Rules outline the backbone of this organization.

**IN MEMORIAM**...a tribute to all previous LCRTA members who are no longer with us.

**NEWSLETTER**...an archive of previous "Bellringer" Newsletters with the most current newsletter on the top of the list.

**LEGISLATIVE**...an archive of the Legislative News from the Legislative Committee Chair.

The webmaster of the LCRTA website is Sherry Niederkorn. She may be reached at [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com).

Please note the Travel Interest Form on the bottom of the Social/Travel page. The Social/Travel committee is seeking information on what you would like to see and where you would like to go. Please cut off the bottom of the Social/Travel page and return it to:

**Kathy Kling,  
6810 Rockport Lane,  
Mentor, OH 44060**

If you have some ideas that you would like for the committee to know about, please write them down and send them back with the Interest Form.

✂		<b>Mail to: Louise Bennet 7995 Burgundy Court Painesville, Ohio 44077</b>
Name _____		
Volunteer Hrs. _____	Caregiver Hrs. _____	

## 2020 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

**AUGUST 21, 2020 - RABBIT RUN - "ALWAYS PATSY CLINE" (CANCELLED)**  
**OCTOBER 9 - 14, 2020 - ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA (CANCELLED)**  
**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, Virginia Keller, Kathleen Kling, Lynn Miller, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard  
**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO BEV LEE.** Bev resigned from the committee as she is now fully retired with many responsibilities including one as Grandma.

**A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER , VIRGINIA KELLER. "Happy to have you on board, Ginny."**

**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 is cancelled.**

### **OCTOBER 9 – 14, 2020 ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA (CANCELLED)**

The Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta Committee cancelled this year's festivities. The new Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta trip is **October 8 – 13, 2021**. There is currently no additional information. **CHECK FOR UPDATES!!**

### **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 Pigeon Forge, TN. This is a 5 day, 4 night trip with Great Day Tours. **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.**

**The Social/Travel Informational meeting will not be held this year.** We need to know your thoughts and suggestions. Please complete the following form and return to **Kathy Kling, 6810 Rockport Lane, Mentor, OH 44060.**

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### **LCRTA TRAVEL INTEREST FORM**

*(Please check the trips that interest you)*

<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts Series	<input type="checkbox"/> Holland, MI Tulip Festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Lakehouse Restaurant/ Beck Theater
<input type="checkbox"/> Wooster / OLO	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit Run/ Optional Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Severance Hall at Christmas
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland Day Trip	<input type="checkbox"/> Canadian Rockies by train	<input type="checkbox"/> European River Boat Cruise
<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii	<input type="checkbox"/> Machu Picchu	<input type="checkbox"/> Mississippi River Boat Trip
<input type="checkbox"/> Galapagos	<input type="checkbox"/> Shaw Festival	<input type="checkbox"/> Scandinavian Countries
<input type="checkbox"/> Bermuda	<input type="checkbox"/> New England	<input type="checkbox"/> Opryland Hotel at Christmas

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

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR TRIPS