



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 59 No. 12

October, 2023

## From the President...Cathy Szuter

Happy harvest season (as it used to be called) or falling leaves (now just fall). It is the time of pumpkin flavored everything from coffee, teas and candy etc. It is the time of shortening daylight and cooler nights and sometimes days. It is often called "sweater weather." It is the time when trees show their glorious colors before becoming dormant. Football games, hayrides, apple picking, maze walking, clambakes make the season fun. I enjoy the change in seasons. How about you?

Please note the **CHANGE** in the location for the November 14, 2023 luncheon.

**WHERE:** Sausalito's at the **Kirtlander, 9270 Chillicothe Road (Route 306)** across from the Kirtland library.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 11:00AM

**Why:** This change was decided after tallying the votes from the survey handed out at the September meeting.

**Cost:** The cost will be higher due to the fact that the price of food has increased and that this will be a full sit-down meal.

See the menu for the luncheon on the reservation tear-off on page 3 of this newsletter. All reservations are due by November 3, 2023. There will be NO reservations accepted after this date.

Please park in front of the building and enter through the front door.



## DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

Rebecca McFarland, an internationally recognized expert on his life and times knows him well.

Hear her speak at the November 14th LCRTA luncheon to find out why the TRUTH is more fascinating than Fiction!

## Legislative Report...Tom Moscovic - Legislative Chair

### DeWine begins Ohio's K-12 education overhaul despite judge extending temporary restraining order

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine is moving forward with an overhaul of Ohio's education department and state board of education despite a Franklin County judge extending a temporary restraining order to prevent that from happening. After an all-day preliminary injunction hearing on Monday, Franklin County Magistrate Jennifer Hunt ruled that the temporary restraining order blocking lawmakers' attempts to overhaul Ohio's K-12 education system remains in effect until the court makes a decision on the case, which must happen by Wednesday at noon,

"There is certainly a potential for chaos," DeWine said during what he called a "very unusual press conference" Monday night. "Questions such as who will send out the checks that go to our public schools across the state, who will make the determination about eligibility for school choice. I can not let this situation fester."

Even though a temporary restraining order is still in effect, the education department changes are still going forward because Tuesday marks 90 days since DeWine signed the state's operating budget into law which included these changes, DeWine said. As of Tuesday, he said, the Ohio Department of Education ceases to exist and is now the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, as set forth in the budget DeWine signed into law in July. Interim Superintendent Chris Woolard is in charge of the department.

But it is more than a name change. This creates a cabinet-level director position, puts the department under the governor's office, and limits the State Board of Education's power to teacher disciplinary and licensure cases and territory disputes.

We believe, based upon what our lawyers tell us, that new department can in fact function." DeWine said. He said they will follow the court order and not name the new cabinet-level director, even though "we are actively in the process of finding" candidates before the temporary restraining order was put into place. DeWine said, "We will not take an active part in any way as governor in the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce. The new department has money going into that department by reason of the budget that was passed by the General Assembly."



Congratulations to Cathy Trepal and Brian Szuter on their marriage, September 8, 2023.

LCRTA extends best wishes for your future together.

Legislative continued...

### Lawsuit

Seven members of the Ohio State Board of Education filed a lawsuit against DeWine on Sept. 19 in an effort to block the education department changes in the state budget bill. The lawsuit was filed in the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. The original plaintiffs were Christa Collins, Teresa Fedor, Kathleen Hoffman, Tom Jackson, Meryl Johnson, Antoinette Miranda, and Michelle Newman. Franklin County Judge Karen Held Phipps issued the temporary restraining order Sept. 21.

The lawsuit complaint was amended on Sunday and now Collins, Newman, Stephanie Eichenberg and the Toledo Public School Board are the plaintiffs in the case. Eichenberg is a former Toledo Public School Board president. They are being represented by Democracy Forward and Ulmer & Berne LLP. "The Court already ruled that the DeWine Administration's takeover of the State Board of Education in Ohio must be halted until it has an opportunity to issue a decision." Skys Perryman, President and CEO of Democracy Forward, said in a Monday night statement. "If the Governor is suggesting the state will not comply with the court's order, then he would be in contempt of Court."

Collins, Eichenberg and Toledo Public School Board President Shenna Barnes testified as plaintiffs, and ODE's Chief of Staff Jessica Voltolini testified for the defense on Monday. Collins said during Monday's hearing that she filed the lawsuit as a concerned parent, not as school board member.

Collins stated "The public and transparent nature that I have enjoyed for my entire career and my being a parent is gone. There is no public debate. There is nothing that I as a parent can follow to understand why things are being done and how those things will effect my children." She is the mother of six children, with four currently attending public schools. She said she has reached out to her state Board of Education representative over the years with questions and concerns over implementing the state's dyslexia policy, standardized testing and the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Collins who was elected to the state Board of Education in 2021, said she started looking into how to file a lawsuit on July 5, a day after DeWine signed the budget into law.

"I felt like this was similar to the agenda of our human resources committee on a local education board," Stephanie Eichenberg said during Monday's hearing when she was asked what she thought of the new responsibilities of the state school board. Barnes said her working relationship with the state school board "is very vital" and explained how she has worked with school board members to put legislative changes in place.

"We need someone who can give us real-time information

### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION.....

By Louise Bennet



Perhaps you shop at Walmart or Marc's? Maybe you have grandchildren who have outgrown their winter clothes, especially their boots, hoodies and coats? Both of these scenarios present themselves with a perfect opportunity for you to help children survive through another northeast Ohio winter.

At the November meeting, we are collecting with items for Hope Chest: children's warm gloves, hats, jackets, coats, boots and hoodies. These items do not need to be brand new; gently worn is fine. A little birdie told me that Marc's is a good place to find the hats and gloves.

Another chance to help others and make your linen closet less crowded is a need from Hope Chest for sheets and blankets. Also gratefully accepted would be any size/gender winter clothing, sneakers/shoes, and monetary donations.

Please try to find at least one item from the above suggestions to bring with you on November 14th to help others as we enter the 2023 Holiday Season. Thank you!

P.S. We continue to collect ALUMINUM pull tabs from beverage cans to send to Ronald McDonald house in Cleveland.

Legislative continued...

but also responds to us when we ask questions" Barnes said.

Ohio voters passed a constitutional amendment in 1953 that created a State Board of Education with the power to appoint a Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Ohio State Board of Education is currently made up of 29 members-11 elected, 8 appointed by Gov. DeWine.

The changes to the Ohio Department of Education and State Board of Education started out as Senate Bill 1, which Senator Bill Reinke, R-Tiffin, introduced in January. The Ohio Senate voted along party lines to pass SB 1 in March-which sent it to the Ohio House, but it stayed in committee. The Senate added SB 1 to the state budget in June, which DeWine signed into law in July.

The seven board members who originally wrote the lawsuit previously wrote a letter to DeWine the day he received the budget and asked him to veto the "power grab" of changing the state board's role.



LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Due by November 3, 2023  
No Exceptions

Please cut out and return this reservation form with payment to:

Make all checks payable to LCRTA  
\$26.00 per person

Karen Sawitke  
9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
440-255-0764

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ (s) for the Tuesday, November 14, 2023, LCRTA luncheon. 11:00AM

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

Please list names of all attending on this line

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

Lunch: (Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Piccata, Long Grain Wild Rice, Green Beans  
\_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Portobella Mushroom with Quinoa, Roasted Vegetables, Balsamic Glaze

All meals include: House Salad, Balsamic and/or Ranch Dressing, Rolls & Butter, Beverages and Chef's Special Cheesecake

If there will be more than 1 person on this reservation, please indicate who will be having each meal.

**PLEASE PARK IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING AND ENTER BY FRONT DOOR**

## A Mystery Solved.....

Eliot Ness served as Cleveland's Safety Director for Mayor Harold Burton during the years of 1935 to 1942. In these short years, Eliot Ness made an impact on the city of Cleveland that has lasted for generations.

He came at a time when the city was very corrupt and when it was regarded as the most dangerous city in the country. Within a few short years Cleveland was awarded the "National Safety Award" thanks to Eliot's relentless pursuit of justice and honesty. Two of his three wives were popular in their own right within the artistic community of Cleveland.

Our speaker for the November 14th meeting is Rebecca McFarland, an internationally recognized expert on the life and times of Eliot Ness. Her photos and stories will share the Eliot Ness that you won't get from the movies because, in this case, the truth is more fascinating than fiction.



## Volunteer Hours Sheet for the months of : September, October 2023

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer Hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Out and Mail to:

Louise Bennet  
7995 Burgundy Court  
Painesville, Ohio 44077

OR Email to:

bnlbennet@yahoo.com

OR Bring to the next luncheon-November 14, 2023

2024 Dues may be paid at the November 14 luncheon/meeting. Please pay to Karen Sawitke. Post cards should be received by the first weekend in November.



## THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Website

<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com>



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 14, 2023..... Luncheon/Meeting 11:00AM

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

November 16, 2023.....Informational Meeting 1:30PM

Garfield Room  
Mentor Public Library

November 28 thru  
December 2, 2023..... Cape May at Christmastime

This will be the final issue of *The Bellringer* for 2023. The next edition will be coming to you in January 2024.



Are you moving? Do you have a new phone number? or a new email address? **PLEASE** let us know.

Call: 440-255-0764 or Email [sawitke@oh.rr.com](mailto:sawitke@oh.rr.com)

## 2023 - 2024 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

**October 6-21, 2023 - European Riverboat Cruise (GCT)**

**November 16, 2023 – Informational Meeting – Mentor Library**

**November 28 thru December 2, 2023 - Christmastime in Cape May**

**February 25, 2024 – “Cats” – Fine Arts Association**

**October 10-19(20), 2024 – Hawaiian Cruise Vacation**

### SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

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)

ALL FLIERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE LCRTA WEBSITE:  
[www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com](http://www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com)

Please check the LCRTA website for any changes.

**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!!**  
(Sometimes letters get lost in the mail.)

### YOUR SOCIAL /TRAVEL COMMITTEE

We are looking for one or two members to join the Social/Travel Committee to help us plan our future trips. If you love to travel and are interested, please contact one of us, or email us at [oh.lcrtasotrav@gmail.com](mailto:oh.lcrtasotrav@gmail.com)

**Thursday, November 16, 2023 – Informational Trip Meeting – Mentor Public Library**

Be the first to be “in the know” about the wonderful trips that the Social / Travel committee is currently planning. Contribute to the conversation about future trips, and hear all the information about scheduled ones for 2023-2024. This meeting will be held in the Garfield Room (basement level) at Mentor Public Library at 1:30 PM. Wendy Miller Skettle from Nowak Tours will also be there to discuss the 2024 Hawaiian adventure. We look forward to seeing you there... Bring a friend too.

**November 28 thru December 2, 2023 - Cape May at Christmastime**

The 5-day motorcoach tour with Great Day! Tours awaits your reservation. Celebrate the best of Cape May at Christmastime, with its gaslit streets, musicians and carolers; guests can visit Victorian homes, inns, and churches. The city is located at the southern tip of the Cape May Peninsula in New Jersey where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. Highlights of this tour include the Physick Family Christmas House, a Cape May trolley tour of the Historic District, and a visit to the Carroll Gallery. Included also will be a winery tour and a presentation on Cape May’s Christmas Traditions. Breakfast and dinner are included daily. A return stop in Lancaster, PA will be made for dinner and the show, “A Christmas Carol, The Musical”. The next day we attend a matinee performance of “The Miracle of Christmas” and then depart for home. The cost is \$1684 per person (double) and \$2084 per person (single). **Final payment is due ASAP.** Twenty seats are being held for LCRTA. Contact is Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com). See LCRTA website for flier and registration form.

**February 25, 2024 - "Cats" –Fine Arts Association (Willoughby)**

Join us on a cold February Sunday for a 2:00 matinee performance at the Fine Arts Association. It's the purr-fect way to chase away the winter blues. Twenty tickets are being held for LCRTA, so we can enjoy Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical about a tribe of Jellicle Cats on a moonlit evening. It's a magical, moving, and hilarious performance that features the haunting standard "Memories". If 10 or more tickets are sold, the discounted cost will be \$21 per ticket. Our contact for this event is Kathy Kling at 440-487-3806 or [kathyk5773@aol.com](mailto:kathyk5773@aol.com). **Reservations** are due **January 28, 2024**.

**October 10 thru 19 (20), 2024 – Hawaii Cruise Vacation (11-day trip)**

Join us as we discover the beauty, culture and history of the Hawaiian Islands on this Hawaiian Cruise Tour with Nowak Tours. Spend two nights on Waikiki Beach then board Norwegian Cruise Line's The Pride of America. Relax on board your floating resort as you sail from island to island while the ship's attentive staff is available to ensure that your journey is an enjoyable one. Add the annual migration of the North American Humpback whales from the cold waters of Alaska to the warm waters of Hawaii and you have truly experienced PARADISE.

The trip includes roundtrip airfare to Honolulu, all airport transfers, 2-night lodging on Waikiki Beach, 7-night cruise on the Pride of America in selected cabin type, 6 private shore excursions (including Pearl Harbor, the USS Arizona, USS Missouri, Iao Valley, Volcanoes National Park, Macadamia Nut Factory, Kona coffee plantation, Waimea Canyon, Grand Circle Island Tour – and more). Tour pricing also includes all port charges, taxes & fees, all onboard meals with 24-hour room service on the Pride of America, and all gratuities for baggage handling, drivers, and local guides. **PRICING:** (To view staterooms, visit their website at <https://www.ncl.com/cruise-ship/pride-of-america>) Inside Stateroom: \$5,149, Outside stateroom (picture window): \$5,679 Balcony stateroom: \$5,949

**Payment Policy:** A \$500 deposit per person is due to secure your reservation and no later than February 9, 2024. Final payment is due no later than June 14, 2024. Optional trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available at \$373 (for all stateroom categories) and is strongly recommended. The Insurance premium is due with your deposit and is fully refundable up to the final payment date. Please choose your stateroom category, make your check payable to "Nowak Tours" and send with the registration form to **Nowak Tours, 1395 Barn Run Drive, Valley City, Ohio 44280**. You can also pay by credit/debit card (no additional fees) by calling Nowak Tours at 330-483-4900. Contact Sherry Niederkorn with questions at 440-477-1198 or [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com) to let her know that you are interested. Flier and registration form is on the website.

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**FEBRUARY 25, 2024** "CATS" **DUE: JANUARY 28, 2024**

**MAIL TO: Kathy Kling, 6810 Rockport Lane, Mentor, Ohio 44060. Make check payable to LCRTA.**

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for "CATS" at \$21 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.**