



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 54 No.1

January, 2018

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** The new year has begun and the month of January is almost gone. That definitely means that we have one cold month down and possibly only 1 or 2 more to go.

Our first meeting for the new year will be at St. John Vianney Social Hall on February 13. This was one of the places that rated a high score on the survey taken at our last meeting. The surveys, completed by those who had attended the luncheons in 2017, felt that St. John Vianney was a nice place to meet, had good food, good service. Please note: there is a new address for the return of your reservation forms and payment to Debbie Deal for this luncheon only.

Our April meeting is combined with The Geauga County Retired Teachers Association at Quail Hollow Resort on April 3, 2018. More information will appear in the March *Bellringer* for this luncheon.

We are still searching for some members to step up to positions on the Board of LCRTA.

### President-Elect.

President-Elect is most important as my term is up December 31, 2018 and someone needs to step up and take over. Please members, please think seriously about what you can do to help us out. It is not always the other guy who will do it. If everyone waits for someone else, nothing gets done. I am aware that people have busy schedules, and want to travel and enjoy their retirement, or have health issues that prohibit them from stepping up, however, remember that this organization along with the other chapters in the state keep our people at STRS and ORTA in check and lets our state representatives know where we stand on the important issues that concern us. Please let me know if you can help. Karen Sawitke

## Legislative Stuff to Keep You on Your Toes and Active!!!

Tom Moscovic

### 5 Key Facts ...about Vouchers

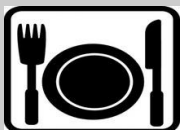
All education activists should understand the impact that private school voucher schemes have on students and our public schools. Here are some quick facts for those who made need a little help getting up to speed.

Created by Education Votes on October 27, 2017

1. **Vouchers: DeVos' prime weapon against public schools** - Education Secretary Betsy DeVos wants to use private school vouchers to dismantle the public education system in America. She and President Trump proposed a \$1 billion national voucher program.
2. **Vouchers rob public schools of already-scarce dollars!** Even though more than 90 percent of the nation's students attend our public schools, they are dramatically underfunded. Voucher schemes drain hundreds of millions of dollars away from public school students to pay the private school tuition of a select few.
3. **Vouchers have many different names...but it is still a VOUCHER!** Opportunity Scholarships, Tuition Tax Credits, Education Savings Accounts are all fancy sounding names for the same thing.
4. **Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia have some sort of voucher scheme.** And if President Trump and DeVos get their way...that number could increase dramatically, which would be more drain on public school funding. Unlike public schools, private schools getting vouchers don't accept all students.

### Teachers Would Lose \$250 Deduction for Classroom Materials Under GOP Tax Bill Passed by Congress

The tax bill proposed by the Republican leaders scraps a benefit that many teachers have come to rely on: the \$250 "educator expense deduction," which can be used to recoup the cost of classroom materials. K-12 teachers who spend money out-of-pocket on books, supplies, professional development, and computer equipment and software for their classrooms can claim the deduction as well. In 2015, Congress extended the benefit indefinitely. Teachers spend about \$530 of their own money on classroom items, according to a 2016 nationally representative survey from



#### LUNCHEON MEETING

Tuesday  
February 13, 2018  
St. John Vianney Social Hall  
7575 Bellflower Road  
Mentor

11:00 Social time 11:30 Luncheon  
Program: How the New Tax Rules  
Will Affect You?



Legislative continued...

Scholastic. In high poverty schools, they spend about 40 percent more-an average of \$672.

### The Impact of Senate Bill 216 as Proposed

Ohio State Senator Matt Huffman (R-Lima) has introduced Senate Bill 216, the "Public School Deregulation Act." The bill has many provisions recommended by school district superintendents in Northwest Ohio. The primary intent of the bill is to create more "flexibility" in Ohio law for school superintendents regarding teacher licensure and classroom assignments, qualifications for educational aide permits, substitutes and continuing contracts (tenure) for non-teaching employees.

OEA is opposed to Senate Bill 216 because most provisions in the bill would eliminate requirements that support educators and protect students. However, the bill makes other proposals regarding testing and evaluations that OEA supports. As OEA continues to work with legislators to address the good and the bad in Senate Bill 216, it is always helpful to hear your feedback.

- \* *SB216 would permit a school district superintendent to employ a licensed teacher to teach a subject area or grade level for which the person is not licensed.*
- \* *SB216 would eliminate the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment. (KRA)*
- \* *SB216 would require non-teaching school employees that are newly hired by non-civil service school districts (local, exempted village, and some city districts) to be employed between 6 and 7 years rather than between 2 and 3 years, prior to receiving a continuing contract. (tenure)*

This is another attempt to weaken the impact that teachers have in the classroom and undermine the hard work that we all have done to become highly qualified and effective educators of our students. Please write your State Representatives and ask that they oppose this bill.

### Ohio Supreme Court Rejects ECOT Appeal

The Ohio Supreme Court has rejected the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow's request for an injunction or expedited appeal, even though the state's largest charter school says it will run out of money by March.

The ruling is the latest in a string of court and administrative defeats for ECOT, which is trying to stop the state from taking back \$60 million from the online charter school for unverified enrollment during the 2015-16 school year.

After determining that many ECOT students were not getting the state minimum 920 hours of "educational opportunities," the Ohio Department of Education has been deducting \$2.5 million per month from the school's state funding payments-a deduction set to last two years.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

In front of a building on Lake Shore Blvd. in Mentor sits a large marker with the inscription "Hannah's Home at the Heart of Life." Inside, those who reside are young single pregnant women who have found their "home" when they have no other home at this time of great need. While receiving support in the mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional areas, the women are shown compassionate care. With Valentine's Day celebrated in February, we think of "hearts." Perhaps you have it in your heart to find a way to support "the heart of life" residence as Hannah's Home is chosen for our donations for our February meeting. Some suggestions of current needs are listed below:

- Gerber formula
- Diapers—size 4 and 5
- Wipes
- Basic baby monitors
- Newborn clothes for baby girl due in April
- Gift cards-gas, Walmart, Target, movie theaters

Thank you in advance for your contributions.

## DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

### 2018 College Scholarship Application

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. The Lake County Gamma Iota Chapter administers the merit-based award of \$2,500 comprised of the Mary B. Cole Award valued at \$2,000 and the DKG Gamma Iota Chapter merit award of \$500. In order to be considered for the \$2,500 award, the female college student MUST

- ◇ Be currently registered as a sophomore or junior in college.
- ◇ Be enrolled and excel in a college Teacher Education program
- ◇ Have a home residence located in Eastlake, Kirtland, Mentor, Timberlake, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willoughby Hills or Willowick

The application must be completed and submitted by March 24, 2018 to be considered for this award.

All applicants will be notified of the committee selection by March 31, 2018. The award recipient will be invited to attend our April 21st meeting to receive the award.

For additional information and application:

Contact: Patricia White [DKGScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:DKGScholarship@gmail.com)

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

St. John Vianney Social Hall  
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor**Due by February 2, 2018**

Please send reservation form with your payment to:

Debbie Deal  
8504 Grenway Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060**MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO L.C.R.T.A.**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat (s) for the TUESDAY, February 13, 2018, LCRTA luncheon at \$ 20.00 per person

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

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

Lunch ( Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie Quiche

Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Apple Pie Square

Social time 11:00am Lunch served at 11:30am

**Jean P. Lentz Memorial Active Teacher Grant  
Applications Received**

Applications for the Jean P. Lentz Memorial Active Teacher Grant program have been received. In 2017 we had six (6) grant applications on which to make a decision. For 2018 we have 13. the committee will be meeting on January 19 to decide on the four (4) recipients who will each receive \$200 toward the project that has been chosen for their classroom.

I would hope that you would attend the June luncheon/business meeting to hear these grant recipients talk about their projects and the outcomes. Thank you so much to the members who have donated additional funds to the Active Teacher Grant Fund and to the Scholarship fund when sending in your dues. This is one of the ways that we are able to give these gifts to the students and teachers.

**Membership and Meetings Committees  
Need Chairman.**

Two Board committees are still in need of leaders. Membership and Meetings are an integral part of the Board and we are not going to be able to move ahead without them.

Membership may be done by one or two people working together. Keeping track of membership, collecting dues and keeping the records for not only LCRTA but also ORTA are a part of the task of this committee.

Meetings involves making the decisions on menus for the luncheons and finding the places to hold the luncheon/business meetings and keeping the lists of those attending and what was ordered. If you are interested, please contact Karen at 440-255-0764 or sawitke@oh.rr.com.

**Information and Protective Services****Terri Herbert**

**Elder Abuse** -- the mistreatment or exploitation of senior citizens - is more common than we tend to believe and can take many different forms. Instances of elder abuse range from the infliction of physical harm to the use of fraud or coercion to extract financial or material gain from vulnerable seniors. The main types of elder abuse are physical abuse (including holding someone against their will), psychological/emotional abuse (verbal or non-verbal), sexual abuse, neglect and/or self-neglect, financial or material exploitation and abandonment.

Abuse can occur in many settings including in one's own home, in a family member's home or in a care facility. The abuser may be a spouse, a child or another family member. It may be a friend or neighbor. Or a paid care-giver. As elders become more physically frail, they're less able to stand up to bullying and/or fight back if attacked. They may not see or hear as well or think as clearly as they used to, leaving openings for unscrupulous people to take advantage of them. Mental or physical ailments may make them more trying companions for the people who live with them.

You may not recognize or take seriously signs of elder abuse. They may appear to be symptoms of dementia or signs of the elder person's frailty-or caregivers may explain them to you in that way. In fact many of the signs of elder abuse do overlap with symptoms of mental deterioration, but that doesn't mean you should dismiss them on the care-giver's say-so.

If you suspect a friend, neighbor or relative may be being abused you need to take action (just as we did in our working careers when there was suspicion of child abuse or neglect). In Lake County, to report incidents of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation, or receive more information on





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A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive

Mentor, Ohio 44060

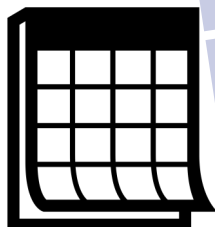
[lakecountyrta.wembly.com](http://lakecountyrta.wembly.com)



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO



pdfelement



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**March 7, 2018 - O'Malinowski's Irish Caberet - Fine Arts - 1:00PM**

**April 25, 2018 - Importance of Being Earnest - Fine Arts - 1:00PM**

**May 16-20, 2018 - Kentucky - "Horses, History & Hooch"**

**June 13, 2018 - Hunchback of Notre Dame - Fine Arts - 1:00PM**

**June 27, 2018 - Wooster/Ohio Light Opera**

**July 29, 2018 - Lake County Captains Game - 7PM**

**August 15-17, 2018 - Potpourri of Ohio Treasures**

**September 15-23, 2018 - Iceland Adventure (SOLD OUT)**

adult maltreatment contact:

Lake County Department of Jobs and Family Service

177 Main Street

Painesville, Ohio 44077

24 Hour Child and Adult Abuse Hotline: 440-350-4000 or 440-918-4000 Press Option 1 Fax 440-350-4010

Agency Hours: Mon-Fri—8:00am to 4:30pm

Every report will be prioritized and investigated as appropriate. Services will be extended whenever possible. Reports kept confidential. Anonymous reports are accepted.

2018 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

- MARCH 7, 2018 – O’MALINOWSKI’S IRISH CABERET – FINE ARTS – 1 PM
- APRIL 25, 2018 – IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST – FINE ARTS – 1 PM
- MAY 16 – 20, 2018 – KENTUCKY – “HORSES, HISTORY, & HOOCH”
- JUNE 13, 2018 – HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME – FINE ARTS – 1 PM
- JUNE 27, 2018 – WOOSTER / OHIO LIGHT OPERA
- JULY 29, 2018 – LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS BASEBALL GAME – 7 PM
- AUGUST 15 – 17, 2018 – POTPOURRI OF OHIO TREASURES
- SEPTEMBER 15 – 23, 2018 – ICELAND ADVENTURE (SOLD OUT)

**PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO L.C.R.T.A.**  
**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**

Sherry Barbieri, Lynn Miller (Co-chairs), Gail Allcock, Kathleen Kling, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard  
**SPECIAL WELCOME** to our newest member, Kathleen Kling. Kathy has already attended a couple of our committee meetings and is ready to join us. **“Happy to have you on board, Kathy!”**

**MAY 16 – 20, 2018 KENTUCKY – “HORSES, HISTORY, & HOOCH” DEPOSIT DUE: FEB. 9, 2018**  
 Join us on a 5-day, 4-night tour to Lexington, Bardstown, and Louisville, Kentucky. Discover the best of Kentucky including horse farms and a horse rehab center, historical mansions and museums, thoroughbred race tracks, Bourbon Heritage Center, and many major sites of the area. **Contact: Lynn Miller at 440-639-1715 or [millerlynn29@yahoo.com](mailto:millerlynn29@yahoo.com) for a brochure and reservation form. \$300 DEPOSIT (& optional insurance) Due: Feb. 9, 2018.**

**JUNE 27, 2018 WOOSTER / OHIO LIGHT OPERA DUE: MAY 10, 2018**  
 We will make our annual trip to Wooster to see the Rodgers and Hart musical, “Babes in Arms.” This 1937 musical features hit songs such as “Lady is a Tramp,” “My Funny Valentine,” “Where or When,” and many others. Our lunch stop is at a NEW VENUE, **Pine Tree Barn**, before we head to our matinee performance at the College of Wooster. Our only pickup will be 8:30 AM in Willoughby at First Presbyterian Church, 4785 Shankland Blvd. **Cost: \$99 per person** based on 35 participants and includes lunch, theatre tickets, transportation, and all gratuities **Contact: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com).**

Page 2 on back )

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**JUNE 27, 2018 WOOSTER / OHIO LIGHT OPERA DUE: MAY 10, 2018**  
 MAIL TO: Sarah Reinhard, 8677 Harvest Home Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to **LCRТА.**  
 Please reserve \_\_\_\_ place(s) at **\$99** per person. **Only pickup: Willoughby 8:30AM (First Presbyterian Church)**  
**Lunch choices: \_\_ French Onion Soup, lemon muffin with garden salad, \_\_ Quiche du jour, fresh fruit, \_\_ Half club croissant, fruit salad. Beverage and dessert included. (Please select 1 per person.)**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

CUT-----

**APRIL 25, 2018 (1pm) “THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST” DUE: MAR 30, 2018**  
 MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to **“LCRТА.”**  
 Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for “The Importance of Being Earnest” @ **\$12 per person (based on group of 10).**

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

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

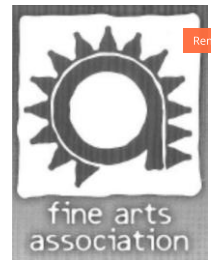
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**MARCH 7, 2018 (1pm) “O’MALINOWSKI’S IRISH CABARET” DUE: FEB 9, 2018**  
 MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to **“LCRТА.”**  
 Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for “O’Malinowski’s Irish Cabaret” @ **\$12 per person (based on group of 10).**

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

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## FINE ARTS SENIOR MATINEE SERIES 2017-2018



Ticket prices of **\$12 each** are based on a group of 10. All shows begin at 1:00 pm in The Fine Arts Association Corning Auditorium at 38660 Mentor Avenue in Willoughby and include a cookie and punch reception following the performance.

Payment for each show must be made with **separate checks** to “LCRTA” and should be mailed to **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, OH 44060.**

**WED, MAR 7, 2018**

**O’MALINOWSKI’S IRISH CABARET**

**DUE: Feb 9, 2018**

A whimsical afternoon of Irish songs and comedy sketches. Rated PG.

**WED, APR 25, 2018**

**IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**

**DUE: Mar 30, 2018**

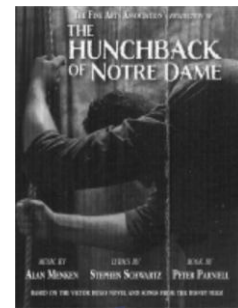
Oscar Wilde’s trivial comedy for serious people. Rated PG.

**WED, JUN 13, 2018**

**HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME**

**DUE: May 18, 2018**

A tormented outcast discovers kindness and friendship from a beautiful gypsy. Rated PG.



**JULY 29, 2018 - 7:00 pm LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS BASEBALL GAME DUE: July 16, 2018**  
LCRTA returns to Classic Park, in Eastlake, to watch your Lake County Captains take on the Great Lakes Loons with *FIREWORKS* after the game. Options such as buffet tickets, kid zone & merchandise wristbands, & handicapped parking passes available on the order form. **Send order form & checks (payable to “Lake County Captains”)** to Sherry Niederkorn at 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, Ohio 44060. **ORDER FORM: online at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/socialtravel.html>. DUE: July 16, 2018.**

**AUGUST 15 - 17, 2018**

**“POTPOURRI OF OHIO TREASURES”**

**DUE: TBD**

Unlock the treasures of central Ohio in this 3-day potpourri Motorcoach trip. Our stops will include a visit to the American Whistle Factory, a Columbus Clippers baseball game, the Ohio State House, Wright Cycle Company Complex and Wright Patterson Air Force Base. We will also enjoy tasty treats at Schmidt’s Sausage Haus in German Village, “homemade ice cream” at the Golden Jersey Inn and a performance of “ANNIE” at the La Comedia Dinner Theater. **CONTACT: Sherry Niederkorn 440-477-1198 or [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com)**  
**COST: TBD**

**SEPTEMBER 15 – 23, 2018**

**“ICELAND ADVENTURE” (SOLD OUT)**

The travelers who have already signed up will be seeing glaciers, active volcanoes, black-sand beaches, geothermal areas, roaring rivers, majestic waterfalls, and beautiful lakes. We will also be looking for the Northern Lights (most noticeable in September, October, March, and April). This popular destination is **SOLD OUT**.

**CONTACT: Gail Allcock, 440-477-6830 or [gailallcock@gmail.com](mailto:gailallcock@gmail.com), or Globus Tours 303-703-7036.**

# COME TRAVEL

# WITH

# LCRTA

