



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 54 No. 3

May, 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

Sunshine, warmth, blooming trees and green grass! I think Spring has Sprung! If you were unable to join us at Quail Hollow for our combined meeting with Geauga County RTA you missed a good luncheon and program. Thanks to those who did attend.

Our June luncheon will be held at the Coach House on Route 306 on June 12, 2018. This is the luncheon to which we invite the Jean P. Lentz Active Teacher Grant Program winners of 2018, our Scholarship Winners for 2018 and we have a special guest, Mr. Robin Rayfield, Executive Director of ORTA. Let's have a good turnout! If you have questions about ORTA, save them up and ask them at this meeting.

I will be asking for volunteers at the June 12th meeting to form a Nominating Committee for the selection of officers for the 2019-2020 year. We have gone through the past two years without a President-Elect who would normally step up into the President's position. I am hoping that this Nominating Committee will be successful in filling the entire slate of officers. If you are interested in a position, please let us know.

If you know of a teacher retiring this year, please encourage them to come to a meeting or bring them as a guest. We send letters to all of the new retirees at the end of the school year, however, a personal note or phone call always adds that most important touch.

There is a new page on the website at:

lakecountyrta@weebly.com

Tom Moscovic, our Legislative Board member has given me a very interesting article about today's children and what they are going through in school in these days of extensive use of social media, smart phones and concern for their safety. The article is too long to appear in the newsletter. It will be placed on the website on a page with the heading "Important Stuff for the Informed Retiree" Please check it out. It is a very interesting read.

I hope to see you at the June 12th luncheon at the Coach House.

Karen Sawitke

MORE STUFF FOR THE INFORMED RETIREE

Tom Moscovic

The following is a summary of the highlights of House Bill 512. This is from an Ohio Education report. This is a "power-grab" from the Kasich Administration.

Kasich Administration Voices Support for Education Consolidation

House Bill 512, sponsored by Representative Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), seeks to consolidate the Ohio Department of Education, the Ohio Department of Higher Education, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation into a new, cabinet-level agency, the Ohio Department of Learning and Achievement. The bill also proposes to transfer most of the functions and policy-making powers of the State Board of Education (SBOE) to the new department. Under the bill, SBOE would oversee teacher licensure and educator misconduct. OEA is opposed to this bill.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, supporters of the bill offered proponent testimony in a hearing before the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee. The proposal praised by officials from Governor Kasich's administration. John Carey, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education and Ryan Burgess, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation stated that the bill will lead to greater coordination and collaboration. Among others providing testimony in favor of HB 512 were Dennis Franks, Superintendent of Pickway-Ross Career Technology Center; Ron Iarussil, Superintendent of the Mahoning County ESC; and Tom Gunlock, former President of the State Board of Education.

In opposing the bill in its current form, OEA believes the proposed consolidation of these state departments would dilute the unique roles and needs of each department. OEA is skeptical that the proposed "super" department will promote additional collaboration. OEA is also not convinced that the functions of the preK-12, higher education, and workforce development systems would be adequately carried out under this plan.

Further, OEA is very concerned with the diminished roll of the State Board of Education, Members of the Board serve an important democratic function that allows for public and educator input on K-12 education issues. While we share the stated goal in increased collaboration, OEA believes that the stated objectives for this bill can be achieved without the merger of these state departments.

Legislative continued...

ECOT used for-profit companies to hide source of attack-ad money, Yost says

Jim Siegel, Columbus Dispatch

Another ECOT SCAM!!!

Using private companies owned by Electronic Classroom Of Tomorrow school founder Bill Lager, plus a media-production company run by his daughter, ECOT tried to hide the source of payment for nearly \$250,000 worth of TV attack ads aimed at the Ohio Department of Education.

That is the conclusion reached by the office of State Auditor Dave Yost, who, in a draft finding for recovery obtained by the Dispatch, lays out details of a plan designed to avoid the appearance that ECOT illegally used taxpayer money to pay for political ads.

As a result, Yost is ordering a pair of Lager's ECOT-affiliated for-profit companies, Altair Learning Management and IQ Innovations, along with Third Wave Communications, where Lager's daughter Jessica Harris is the owner, to repay ECOT a total of nearly \$250,000 for illegally spent public money.

ECOT, formally the state's largest charter school was closed in January. The recovered money would go into a fund that is under the control of an interim master who was appointed by a Franklin County judge; the fund is to be used to continue paying the school's obligations. The companies can formally respond to the finding this week.

Local School Districts Stand to Recover Money Lost to Troubled Charter Schools with the Passage of HB 87

Finally some good news from Columbus. This bill, with passage by the Ohio Senate and signature by Governor Kasich will guarantee that recovered monies collected dishonestly by charter schools will be returned to the home district and not the General or Rainy Day Fund!

HB 87 was passed 94-2 by the Ohio House on March 7, 2018. OEA worked with Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) and the bill's bi-partisan co-sponsors to secure overwhelming support for this important charter school financial accountability bill. State Auditor Dave Yost also voiced strong support.

The bill requires any public funds that are reclaimed by the state based on a finding of recovery against a charter school for fraudulently over-reporting enrollment to be returned to the school districts from which the funds were initially deducted. Ohio law is currently silent on where the state should send these recovered funds.

The House passage of HB87 by a vote of 94-2 comes after recently passing stronger charter student residency verification requirements in HB21 (R-Hambley) by a vote of 94-0. HB21 has received three hearings in the Senate Education Committee thus far and is likely to be approved by the Senate.

Department of Education Fail: Teachers Lose Grants, Forced to Repay Thousands in Loans

Another betrayal by this administration attempting to derail Urban Public Education and hurt disadvantaged children!

America needs teachers committed to working with children who have the fewest advantages in life. So for a decade the Federal Government has offered grants worth up to \$4,000 as year to standout college students who agree to teach subjects like math and science at lower-income schools.

A new government study, obtained by NPR and later posted by the Department of Education, suggests that thousands of teachers had their grants taken away and converted to loans, sometimes with minor errors in paperwork. That's despite the fact they were meeting the program's teaching requirements. "Without any notice, [my grant] was suddenly a loan, and interest was already accruing on it." says Maggie Webb, who teaches eighth-grade math in Chelsea, Mass. "So my \$4,000 grant was now costing me \$5,000.

Since 2008, The Education Department has offered these so-called TEACH grants to people studying to get a college or Master's Degree. The deal is, they get to keep the grant money if they spend four years teaching a high-need subject like math or science in schools that serve low-income families.

If they don't keep their end of the bargain, the grants convert to loans that need to be paid back. But, the study finds, many teachers believe they kept their end of the bargain but are now being asked to repay the money anyway.

Additional Flyer in the *Bellringer*

Beginning with this newsletter we are going to try to send you the flyers available for the Social/Travel events. Please note that this is a 2-sided flyer. The Social/Travel committee works very hard to bring you "experiences" they hope that you will enjoy. We are hoping to make this a little easier for you to get more information on the event.

The flyer will be printed so that you may use the reservation blank from either or both sides.

IN MEMORIAM



Mildred Kahr

Laura Wells

Pat Davis

Bernice Sanders

Pat Christopherson

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

Coach House (Formally Dino's)
St. Route 306, Willoughby**DUE JUNE 1**

Please send reservation form with your payment to:

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO L.C.R.T.A.Susan McCarter
9720 Johnnycake Ridge Rd.
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Please reserve _____(s) for the TUESDAY, June 12, 2018 LCRTA luncheon at \$ 17.00 per person

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Lunch (Choose 1) _____ Coach House Chicken/Baked Potato/Green Beans _____ Pasta Primavera

Includes: homemade rolls, tossed salad/Italian dressing, beverage, chef's choice of dessert

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

Community Participation Louise Bennet

Our June meeting will provide each of you with another opportunity to give back to our community. We are conducting a June Food Drive with the donated items going to United Way of Lake County. The United Way website states that the highest ranked inquiry received last year on the 2-1-1-help information phone line was for food assistance. Please shop or look in your cupboard for at least one can, jar, pouch, or box of food to share with those who are most needy in Lake County and bring it with you to the June meeting. Thank you for showing you care.

A Mailing from "Protect Ohio Pensions"

By now you should have received another mailing from "Protect Ohio Pensions." The POP5 people are again soliciting for funds and for you to join their organization. Please be assured that there is no reason to join this group as many groups are already monitoring and lobbying STRS on behalf of your pension; ORTA, OFT, OEA and others which is a benefit of your ORTA membership. The most recent mailing discusses what they are doing at the Ohio Statehouse with the Legislature for you.

Please know that the authority for current STRS actions has been delegated by the Legislature to the STRS Board-these Board members are the ones responsible for the current decisions about the COLA and health care etc. These decisions were not made by the Legislature at the time.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Beverly Lee	JoAnn Baldree
Rosemary Lynch	Mary Tascone
Patricia Hall Miller	Charlene Miller
Patricia Oster	Laura Haynes
Julia Stanziale	

AETNA Home Health Visits

Many of you have received letters and/or phone calls from Aetna wanting to set up a home health visit. According to Greg Nickell, Director of Health Services for STRS this is a legitimate request. Members can choose to participate or not participate. Some, according to Greg Nickell, view it as an invasion of privacy, however, it is an attempt to assist members with providing the maximum best care at the lowest possible cost by assessing the needs of the members, making sure they are getting the care they need (or determine they do not need) at this time.

Members may ask to be placed on a "do not call" list if they do not want to be bothered in this annual Free evaluation. If you want more detailed information, please call STRS at the toll free number...888-227-7877.



THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive

Mentor, Ohio 44060

www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com



STATE TEACHERS
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF OHIO



pdfelement



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 12, 2018 Luncheon/Meeting Coach House
- June 13, 2018 Hunchback of Notre Dame Fine Arts 1PM
- June 27, 2018 Wooster/Ohio Light Opera (Closed)
- June 29, 2018 Lake County Captains Baseball Game 7PM
- August 15-17, 2018 Potpourri of Ohio Treasures
- September 15-23, 2018 Iceland Adventure (Sold Out)
- December 8, 2018 Golden Triangle Holiday Lights

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Volunteer Hours April-May Name _____ Volunteer Hrs. _____ Caregiver Hrs. _____	Mail to: Louise Bennet 9970 Cottonwood Ct. Mentor, Ohio 44060 OR Bring to June Meeting
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2018 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

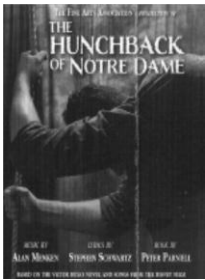
JUNE 13, 2018 – HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME – FINE ARTS – 1 PM
JUNE 27, 2018 – WOOSTER / OHIO LIGHT OPERA (CLOSED)
JULY 29, 2018 – LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS BASEBALL GAME – 7 PM
AUGUST 15 – 17, 2018 – POTPOURRI OF OHIO TREASURES
SEPTEMBER 15 – 23, 2018 – ICELAND ADVENTURE (SOLD OUT)
DECEMBER 8, 2018 – GOLDEN TRIANGLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS

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.lcrtasotrav@gmail.com

SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Sherry Barbieri, Lynn Miller (Co-chairs), Gail Allcock, Kathleen Kling, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard



JUNE 27, 2018

WOOSTER / OHIO LIGHT OPERA (CLOSED)

We are taking our annual trip to Wooster to see the Rodgers and Hart musical, "Babes in Arms." Our lunch stop will be at a NEW VENUE, Pine Tree Barn. After lunch we head to the College of Wooster for our matinee performance. Our only pickup will be 8:30 AM in Willoughby at First Presbyterian Church, 4785 Shankland Blvd. Lunch, theatre tickets, transportation, and all gratuities are included. CONTACT: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

FINE ARTS SENIOR MATINEE SERIES 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. Make checks payable to "LCRTA" and mailed to: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.



WED, JUN 13, 2018 "HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME" DUE: ASAP

A tormented outcast discovers kindness and friendship from a beautiful gypsy. Rated PG. Only 7 tickets left. Contact Sherry Niederkorn first at 440-477-1198 before sending payment.

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CUT----- DECEMBER 8, 2018 "GOLDEN TRIANGLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS" DUE: OCT. 26, 2018 MAIL TO: Sarah Reinhard, 8677 Harvest Home Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to "GREAT DAY TOURS." Please reserve ___ place(s) for "Golden Triangle Holiday Lights" tour @ \$97 per person (based on group of 35).

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

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

CUT----- JUNE 13, 2018 (1pm) "HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME" DUE: ASAP MAIL TO: Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060. Make check payable to "LCRTA." Please reserve _____ tickets for "Hunchback of Notre Dame" @ \$12 per person (based on group of 10).

NAME _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

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: enclosed.**

AUGUST 15 - 17, 2018 "POTPOURRI OF OHIO TREASURES" DEPOSIT DUE: ASAP
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. COST: \$601 (single) \$471 (double) \$431 (triple) \$401 (quad). DEPOSIT OF \$100 DUE: ASAP. BALANCE DUE: June 25, 2018. Make checks payable to: "Ohio Travel Treasures, LLC." APPLICATION FORM is enclosed.**

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. FINAL PAYMENT due to Globus by July 13, 2018. CONTACT: Gail Allcock, 440-477-6830 or gailallcock@gmail.com, or Globus Tours 303-703-7036.**

DECEMBER 8, 2018 "GOLDEN TRIANGLE HOLIDAY LIGHTS" DUE: OCT. 26, 2018
Join us for a festive holiday trip. We will meet at 7:15 AM at First Presbyterian Church, 4785 Shankland Blvd., Willoughby, OH (**only pickup**). Our motorcoach will transport us to Pittsburgh to begin our tour at the **National Aviary Museum**, the country's largest aviary, to see "Wings in Winter Holiday Show" with birds and music. Our next stop is the **Grand Concourse Restaurant in Station Street Square** for a complete luncheon of grilled lemon chicken. The gingerbread theme, holiday train running through part of the restaurant, and beautiful holiday decorations should "warm up" our dining experience as we enjoy the view of the Pittsburgh skyline and rivers. We continue on to **PPG Place** in downtown Pittsburgh, the epicenter of holiday activity. Here we have the opportunity to see **Wintergarden**, a plant filled, all-glass atrium which features 16 life-sized Santa figures dressed in costumes from countries around the world, a **Community Gingerbread House** display (over 500 of them), and a 32-foot decorated Christmas tree with a model train display around its base. **PPG Plaza** is nearby with the Pittsburgh Ice Rink that encircles a 65-foot decorated Christmas tree. We should return to Willoughby about 8 PM with everyone feeling the Christmas spirit. **COST: \$97 per person based on group of 35** includes lunch, admission to stated activities, transportation, and all gratuities. **CONTACT: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com.**

COME TRAVEL

WITH

LCRTA

