



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 60 No. 1

February, 2024

A message from your President.....

As I am driving on Mayfield Road on a sunny day and going through light and dark patches (trees blocking the light), it made me think of the cycle of life; some light days (hopefully most days) and some dark days. This could be caused by the seasons of weather or seasons of our lives. Light days may be caused by feeling good, an enterprise going well, a marriage, the birth of a child etc. the dark can be caused by the weather, a sickness, a problem at work etc. Here's hoping that your days ahead in 2024 have more light spots than dark!

Happy New Year!

We will need a search committee for a new SECRETARY, TREASURER, and PRESIDENT-ELECT to take office starting next January. If you are interested in being a part of the search committee, please contact Cathy Szuter or one of your board members, or better yet step forward yourself! We need everyone to work together on this!

*Cathy Szuter,*  
*President*

**Legislative News.... Tom Moscovic**

## **More Good - More Bad - More Ugly 2023 - A Year Voices Were Heard and Pushed Representative Democracy Forward**

In 2023, here in Ohio we made our voices heard loud and clear in August and November elections. Democracy prevailed and we the people kept our rights. The Ohio AFL-CIO local foundations saw 163 of the 206 endorsed local candidates win placing 27 of the 43 union members in local office, board and council positions. That is Union Strong in action. We made progress in state funding of education highlighting the need for less reliance on property taxes. For retirees more pensions got PBG support from the American Rescue Plan Butch Lewis Act. The public pension systems years of political pressure and big Wall street deals are now under scrutiny. We made progress in funding home and community based long term care in the state budget. The worker elected and work friendly Biden administration is forcing Big Pharma to show up and bargain Medicare Rx Drug prices because we demand it. Not a bad year for the chaos in Congress and the Ohio General Assembly.

## **Senate Bill 83 is SB 5 redo to Take Apart Collective Bargaining a Piece at a Time**

SB83 in an attack on the substance of collective bargaining and the freedom of speech in the workplace. This is how little fiefdoms are born and grow into intimidation and dictatorial bosses refusing to hear workers voices.

SB83 is BAD for Students. BAD for Higher Education. BAD for Ohio. Attacks academic freedom, tenure, and students' freedom to learn. Weaponizes "intellectual diversity" to censor honest inclusive education and critical thinking. Dismisses race, culture identity, lived experience as "controversial beliefs and policies", attacks workers' rights creating unfit working conditions and unsafe learning environments. Leaves students unprepared for multicultural, global workplaces that prioritize DEI and critical thinking. More specifics can be found at:

<https://www.honestyforohioeducation.org/sb83.html>

This is the road we have traveled before. This is the road that said "No Irish Need to Apply", "Italians unwanted", Poles can only work x jobs, Hunkies cannot skill up to that department." This is the road to fascist indoctrination and big brother indicating what is



### LCRTA February Luncheon

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Kirtland Road  
Kirtland, Ohio  
11:00 AM



Sgt. Scott Daubenmire

Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Department

"Protect Yourself from Online Scams and Fraud"

Sgt. Scott Daubenmire from the Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Department will explain how to protect yourself from being victimized on line. Learn how to identify suspicious email and protect your identity (and credit cards) from theft and much more. Cyber security is of great concern to all of us. Listen and learn the latest techniques and safety measures to keep your information safe.

Luncheon reservation form.....Page 3

Legislative continued...

OK to think.

Matt Smith, Ohio AFL-CIO Legislative Director provides the following update as part of their Union Strong solidarity against Senate Bill 83-the Higher Education destruction act. "I am writing with the unfortunate news that SB83 passed out of the House Higher Education committee after an 8-7 vote. Chairman Young did not allow any verbal testimony after adding the bill to the committee agenda less than 24 hours in advance of the hearing. Vice-chair Manning actually called for a vote over objections of Democrats. It is widely known that she had been a NO vote on the bill until very recently. For Representative Manning to flip without a clear reason, is very frustrating. Some legislators think that because the anti-strike language was removed, that our concerns have been addressed. That is simply not true. SB83 still includes anti-collective bargaining language that some would argue, is even worse than the original anti-strike language. Any attack on collective bargaining is an attack on labor. This is a bad bill for workers, a bad bill for students, and could really put our institutes of higher learning at a competitive disadvantage moving forward.

While an irritating turn of events, we must continue to fight and turn up the pressure. We must do all we can to keep SB83 off the House floor.....Now would be a good time to reach out to them and ask for a NO on SB83 should it come up for a floor vote. I should also mention that two Republican Reps. voted no with all of the Democratic committee members-Reps. Gail Pavliga and Justin Pizzulli. We appreciate all seven of the reps who stood with us on this vote. Find your State Representative at: <https://ohiohouse.gov/> and use this time to call and email them. Message is simple—NO ON SB83.

See the LCRTA website at:

<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com> to read another article *Parents' "Bill of Rights" on School Curriculum Content Proposed in Ohio Senate.*"

### SCAMS.....SCAMS.....SCAMS by Karen Sawitke

Have you every received a notice on line from your bank stating that there was "a problem with your account or that your account was overdrawn?" Don't start typing in all of your information that is requested on the notice. Don't start clicking or start writing in all of the what might be requested on the email. Don't write in your account number or your password. The notice that you received is possibly a scam, and there are many scammers today who will try anything to get a "free buck!"

According to The Federal Trade Commission, adults between 60 and 70 report they have been defrauded with median losses of \$666 and \$1,000, those in the 50's have median losses of \$552, \$600 for those in their 40's

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet



February brings to mind Valentine's Day and hearts, hearts, and hearts. Leaning on that theme, if you have a soft spot in your heart for pets, you may want to bring a donation to the next meeting. We are collecting items for the Lake County Humane Society. Please consider contributing one or more from the following list.



Nitrile gloves - size M or L  
Bottles of hydrogen peroxide  
Bottles of bleach  
Flat sheets  
Cat litter-clay or Feline Pine  
Cat food-cans of any brand, wet or pate  
Dry cat food - Purina One Indoor Advantage  
Dry dog food - Purina One Smartblend Chicken & Rice  
Frontline Plus for dogs and cats  
Gift Cards for pet supply stores or gas stations to fuel the LHS vehicle  
Monetary gifts to cover medical expenses

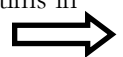
and \$590 for those in their 30's. The reason for older adults losing more is thought to be because they are less informed on computers. Younger adults are more familiar with computers.

Scams can happen in many different ways. On a personal note, I was scammed a few years ago by clicking on a link that was a tech support scam. It was about maintenance on my computer and appeared to be sent from Microsoft. Believe me, it was not. Before I knew it, money was taken from my bank account and I was asked to purchase gift cards and send them to the address provided on the email. In a panic, I phoned my son who lives nearby and was at the time working for Visa. He straightened everything out including me. However, my computer had to be scrubbed, my bank account closed and I had to inform the Federal Trade Commission that the whole incident had happened.

Now when I get an email and do not recognize the address it came from I delete it immediately. If it is not a business I deal with it is deleted. If it is a business I deal with I call them to check if they really sent that particular email. I definitely learned a lesson the hard way.

*The News-Herald*, January 2, 2024, printed an article "Better Business Bureau releases Top 10 scams of past year". It was from the Better Business Bureau of Greater Cleveland with reports from Cuyahoga, Lake Lorain, Geauga and Ashtabula counties. The article stated that

"The continued influence of steady inflation and the changing dynamics of the job market have played a large part in how scammers chose to target their victims in 2023."



LCRTA Luncheon Registration Form

Kirtland Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

Due by February 3, 2024  
NO Exceptions

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

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

**Make all checks payable to LCRTA**  
\$27.00 per person

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) for the Tuesday, February 13, 2024 LCRTA luncheon at 11:00AM

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please list names of all attending on this line

Lunch: (Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Roulade with Roasted Pepper Sauce, Plain mashed potatoes, Asparagus  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cheese Ravioli with Grilled Vegetables, Marinara Sauce

All meals include: House Salad/Balsamic and Ranch Dressings, Rolls & Butter, Caramel Custard for dessert, Beverages

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 THE FRONT DOOR**

TOP scams:

- Plishing
  - On line purchase scams
  - Sweepstakes, lottery and other prize scams
  - Employment scams
  - Tech Support Scams
  - Government agency imposters
  - Debt Collections, bank/credit card company imposters
  - Advance fee loans
  - Don't believe everything you see– Just because a website looks official does not mean that it is.
  - Never share personal identifiable information when some unsolicited person contacts you.
  - Always use secure and traceable transactions.
- Be sure to attend the luncheon on February luncheon to hear more information to help you avoid scams.

**Scholarship Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse**

Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 3:00pm to 10:00pm at Texas Roadhouse, 6095 Commerce Circle, Willoughby, Ohio 44094 will be the next site of our Dine-to-Donate fundraiser for the Scholarship Fund. Bring the flyer to the restaurant that you find in this newsletter and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your total food purchases. Download the app to join the waitlist, order to-go, buy gift cards or dine –in, for a delicious way to support the LCRTA Scholarships.



- Dolores (Lori) Adle
- Denise Brewster
- Ken Buckley
- Joyce Dick
- Gail Lamberton
- Rosemarie Luksic
- Debbie Ludvik
- Richard Schmidt
- Charles Stenger
- Jennifer Williams
- Victoria (Vickie) Zablontny



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A Publication of the  
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED  
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA

9399 Ridgeside Drive  
Mentor, Ohio 44060

[www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com](http://www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com)



STATE TEACHERS  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF OHIO



## Mark Your Calendar

February 13, 2024...Luncheon 11:00AM

Kirtlander Party Center  
9270 Chillicothe Road  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

February 25, 2024...“Cats” 2:00PM  
Fine Arts Willoughby

May 24, 2024 ...Lake County Captains Game  
Classic Park 6:35PM

June 27, 2024....”Tuesdays With Morrie”  
Rabbit Run Theater

August 11, 2024...Beautiful, The Carole King  
Musical  
Beck Center

August 29, 2024...Cruise on the Good Time III

**2024 – 2025 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024 – “CATS” – FINE ARTS WILLOUGHBY**  
**MAY 24, 2024 – LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS BASEBALL GAME**  
**TBD 2024 – FINGER LAKES AND ROCHESTER**  
**JUNE 27, 2024 – “TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE” – RABBIT RUN THEATER**  
**AUGUST 11, 2024 - “BEAUTIFUL, THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL” –BECK CENTER**  
**AUGUST 29, 2024 – CRUISE ON THE GOODTIME III**  
**OCTOBER 10 THRU 19(20), 2024 – HAWAII CRUISE VACATION**  
**DECEMBER 3– 4, 2024 - CHRISTMAS AT TARA MANSION**  
**TBD 2025 – CANADIAN ROCKIES AND VANCOUVER**

**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  
OUR EMAIL ADDRESS: [oh.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com](mailto:oh.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com)

**Please check the LCRTA website for any changes.**

**ALL FLIERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE LCRTA WEBSITE.**

[www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com](http://www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com)

**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 CHECKS!**  
(SOMETIMES LETTERS GET LOST IN THE MAIL)

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024**                                      **“CATS” – FINE ARTS WILLOUGHBY**                                      **DUE: JAN. 28, 2024**

Join us on a cold February Sunday for a 2:00 matinee performance at the Fine Arts Association. It’s a purr-fect way to chase away the winter blues. Twenty tickets are being held for L.C.R.T.A. 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. **CONTACT:** Kathy Kling at 440-487-3806 or [kathyk5773@aol.com](mailto:kathyk5773@aol.com).

**MAY 24, 2024**                                      **LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME (Classic Park)**                                      **DUE: May 10, 2024**

Show your spirit for the Lake County Captains as they go against the West Michigan Whitecaps at Classic Park Stadium in Eastlake. The first pitch begins at 6:35 PM, but gates open an hour earlier. Download the order form from our website. **COST:** Tickets are \$12 each and parking passes (regular and handicapped) are \$10 each.

**Checks made payable to L.C.R.T.A.** and should be sent to **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.** Transportation is not included.

**TBD 2024 –**                                      **FINGER LAKES AND ROCHESTER, NY**

Based on the responses to the Travel Information Survey, the committee is looking into a multi-day visit to the Finger Lakes region and the city of Rochester. Stay tuned for more information as we explore the possibilities.

**CUT-----**

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024**                                      **"CATS"**                                      **DUE: JAN. 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.



**JUNE 27, 2024**      **“TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE”- RABBIT RUN THEATER**      **DUE: MAY 30, 2024**  
“TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE” is the autobiographical story of Mitch Albom, an accomplished journalist driven solely by his career, and Morrie Schwartz, his former college professor. Sixteen years after graduation, Mitch happens to catch Morrie’s appearance on television and learns that his former professor is battling Lou Gehrig’s Disease. Mitch is reunited with Morrie. Simple visits turn into a weekly pilgrimage and lessons in the meaning of life. **COST: \$28 per ticket.** Join us for an optional dinner at Jennifer Williams’ home in Madison and then drive to the Rabbit Run Theater for the performance. (For those that attend the dinner, an additional fee of **\$10** will help defray the cost.) Reservation forms are on the website for the performance and optional dinner. Optional dinner reservation must be indicated in advance with your ticket order. Contact person is **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, OH 44060.** Transportation is not included.

**AUGUST 11, 2024**      **“BEAUTIFUL, THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL”**      **DUE: JUNE 14, 2024**  
Join us for “**Beautiful, The Carole King Musical**” at the Beck Center followed by an optional dinner at the Market Street Family Restaurant in Mentor. Meet at the restaurant, ride the limousine, and return after the show. This show tells the story of the early life and career of Carole King using songs that she wrote including “So Far Away,” “Will You Love Me Tomorrow,” “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling,” and many more. **COST: \$66 per person (based on 20 participants) and includes show ticket, transportation, and gratuities.** Contact is **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, OH 44060.** Reservation form is on the website. **(MAX of 30)**

**AUGUST 29, 2024**      **GOODTIME III CRUISE AND LAKEVIEW CEMETERY**      **DUE: AUG. 10, 2024**  
Join us along with Great Day! Tours for a cruise on the Goodtime III from the Port of Cleveland and learn the history of our city and its Lake Erie and Cuyahoga River waterways. After a delicious meal onboard, we will disembark to travel by bus to one of the few “Garden Cemeteries” known as Lakeview Cemetery. This 285-acre cemetery is the final resting place of many Cleveland notables including President James Garfield and Eliot Ness. Plan to learn the history of this “outdoor museum” from our knowledgeable guide. This trip provides two tours in one day! **COST: \$172 per person.** Contact **Kathy Kling 440-487-3806.** Reservation form will be posted on the website when it is available. (Willoughby pickup with 10 or more LCRTA participants.)

**OCTOBER 10 THRU 19(20), 2024**      **HAWAII CRUISE VACATION (11-day trip)**  
We are excited to report that we have over 30 travelers already registered for this trip to paradise. Not to fret, we have spots saved for a few more. Those of you who have thought about going to Hawaii may want to [join us on this trip](#). When traveling with friends you have quite a few perks added to the mix, such as: transportation to & from the airport provided, support from people you know, a chance to meet new friends and a discount on travel because of the numbers. Plus... We will have our own personal Tour Director from Nowak Tours onboard with us. She will be planning private excursions and special occasions just for our group. We will spend two nights on Waikiki Beach then board Norwegian Cruise Line’s The Pride of America for a trip to PARADISE. **More details and the flier are available on the website.**

**PRICING:** (To view staterooms, visit their website at <https://www.ncl.com/cruise-ship/pride-of-america>)

Inside Stateroom: \$5,149 Balcony stateroom: \$5,949 Outside stateroom (picture window): \$5,679

**Payment Policy:** A \$500 deposit per person is due to secure your reservation 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 registration form with payment 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. Flier and Registration form are available on the website. Contact Sherry Niederkorn with questions at 440-4771198 or [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com) to let her know that you are interested.

**DECEMBER 3-4, 2024**      **CHRISTMAS AT TARA MANSION**      **DEADLINE: TBD**  
Step back into time at a home befitting the lifestyle of those in “Gone with the Wind” with Southern Belles taking us on a tour. Tara Mansion is a Country Inn near Sharon, PA in the Greek Revival-style that’s decorated with fascinating pieces of Civil War memorabilia. We will be served a delicious holiday dinner and breakfast among the beautiful Christmas decorations and lights. In addition, we will have afternoon tea. For more holiday festivities, on the trip home the bus will stop at the “Chocolate Kingdom” and Hermitage, PA. **COST: \$364 PER PERSON DBL OR \$394 SGL.** Contact **Sarah Reinhard 440-567-9515.** Download the flier from the website.





Download our App to  
Join Waitlist  
Order To-Go  
Buy Gift Cards

# FUNDRAISING

DINE-IN OR TO-GO

»» *Support* ««

Lake County Retired Teachers  
Thursday, February 1st  
3:00pm – 10:00pm

## 10%

**DONATION NIGHT**

Show support by presenting this flyer to the **6095 Commerce Circle | Willoughby, OH** Location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases!



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