



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 58 No.1

January, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

A prosperous New Year to you all and it is my hope that you experience more love, peace, joy, and purpose in 2022.

It is also my hope that we each become more involved in the inner workings of LCRTA. There are so many ways this can be done. In our yearbook on page 18, under Standing Rules, there is a list of the various committees. Each one of those would welcome additional members. When there is a need of a special committee to be formed, such as Budget, Audit, or Nominating, how about stepping up to say: "I can help with that!" A third way is to encourage retired teachers that you know to be members of our organization. Promote our purpose with exuberance and perhaps those individuals will come on board. Finally, to communicate our purposes to others, we have to be knowledgeable on issues in our Ohio Legislature, the availability with Protective Services, and what the needs are in the Lake County community. Tom Moscovic, Terri Herbert and Louise Bennet are top notch in helping us to do just that.

On behalf of the Board, let's see each other at our luncheon on February 8. Let's help Sue McCarter out and meet her reservation deadline. The caterer is very specific about that; therefore, **NO RESERVATIONS** will be accepted after the deadline. After all, it is always good to be kind to someone's wishes, no matter the situation. I like to think so.

Ginny Keller

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

By Terri Herbert

At Home Medical Tests

Would you trust an at-home medical test? It turns out Americans over age 65 do, more than any other age group. One survey of 1,162 U.S. adults examined the level of trust among different age groups regarding at-home health tests such as cholesterol tests, stool samples and COVID-19 tests. The results of our survey show that the older the person, the more likely they are to trust the results of an at-home medical test just as much as a test administered in a doctor's office.

At home health tests have been found to be remarkably accurate. One study concluded that untrained users were "able to properly perform home tests and obtain accurate results, yielding high correlations with laboratory and health professional-performed tests."

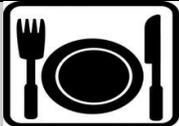
The COVID-19 pandemic has created a surge in start-up companies selling at-home medical tests, many of which have yet been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Some at-home COVID-19 tests currently on the market have been cautioned against by some experts.

Key Findings:

- * Nearly twice as many seniors **trust the results of an at-home COVID-19 test** than Generation Z.
- * Of the 12 types of at-home health tests included in the survey, **baby boomers were more likely than Generation Z to trust the results** in 11 cases and equally as likely in the other.
- * Baby boomers were at least **twice as likely** than Generation Z to trust at-home stool sample tests, diabetes tests, food intolerance tests, Lyme disease tests, STD/STI tests and blood tests.
- * 83% of adults believe **public health will improve** if more at-home health testing is implemented.
- * 62% of adults agree that **the federal government should provide more funding** for at-home testing and wearable monitors.

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LUNCHEON MEETING
Tuesday
February 8, 2022
St. John Vianney Social Hall
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor

PROGRAM:
"The Famous and Infamous Women of Cleveland's Millionaire Row." presented by Dan Ruminski

DINING TO DONATE — MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 2022 11:am to 8:00pm QUAKER STEAK & LUBE



Please join us for lunch or dinner at Quaker Steak & Lube on Monday, January 31, 2022, as we help to raise funds for LCRTA Scholarships. Hours for the fundraiser are 11:00am to 8:00pm. Simply present the flier to your server and 10% of your total food purchases (excluding taxes, tips and alcoholic beverages) will be donated to the organization. Quaker Steak & Lube is located at 7834 Reynolds Road (Route 306) Mentor. Good for both "dine in" and to-go orders. Flier can be downloaded from the LCRTA website. See the Scholarship page at

Quaker Steak & Lube

<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/scholarship-news.html>

LEGISLATIVE REPORT....

By Tom Moscovic

Ohio Voucher Deception and Annie Get your Gun

8 Lies About Private School Vouchers

1. When it comes to education, one size doesn't fit all.

What does this mean? Is this a one-liner that is supposed to indicate traditional public schools as having no options or choices within the system? The public system has a variety of choices in curricular, co-curricular and athletic options. In fact, the typical school district has significantly more choices for students than the typical private school.

GRADE: F

2. School Choice saves taxpayers money.

You did not show your work because you can't. Your universal voucher bill creates a new, bloated bureaucracy in the State Treasurer's office with a file for every student that will cost, not save, taxpayers millions and millions of dollars. You are going to refund parents for more than 100,000 students. You're going to write checks to home-schooling parents. **GRADE: F**

3. Competition breeds excellence.

Free-market principles have been applied to public schools to promote segregation and institutional racism. Again you don't show your work because there is no credible research to back up your claim. This same misleading answer was given to justify charter schools like ECOT. **GRADE: F.**

4. All students benefit from education freedom.

Students benefit from a quality educational opportunity. Strong public schools strengthen our communities. Your scheme will harm our students, our families, our taxpayers, our communities. **GRADE: F.**

5. Parents are powerless to fight against political and sexualized material.

School district patrons have the opportunity to be heard at board meetings with elected school board. They have access to school administrators and teachers. Parents are not powerless in influencing the direction of traditional public schools. But can the same be said for a parent and student who may disagree with any of the religious, cultural, customs or more of private schools regarding race, gender, political views, religious freedom, etc.? Public schools accept all children. Private schools pick and choose their enrollees. **GRADE: F**

6. Too many public schools are well-funded, but underperforming.

Quick history lesson. In 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the way lawmakers and the governor funds public education in Ohio is unconstitutional. In 2021, a quarter century later, after passing the two-year state budget, lawmakers and Gov. DeWine admitted that are not fully funding public schools. **GRADE: F**

7. Fund teachers and students, not bureaucrats.

Again, you can't show your work. This statement is inaccurate. It is meant to inflame Ohioans against the public system. **GRADE: F**



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

For our February luncheon meeting the organization receiving a helping hand will be the United Way of Lake County. The United Way, in turn, spreads its help across the entire county by distributing our donations to the many food banks located here.

Some suggestions offered by a United Way representative include:

Pancake mix	mashed potatoes in pouches
Bottled water	toilet paper & toiletries
Macaroni and Cheese in cups	

Suggestions from people being served at a food bank gave interesting insight to items which would be most appreciated:

Powdered milk in a box	Stove Top stuffing
spices	sugar, flour, oil
tea bags	coffee
Cake mix and frosting (to make a cake for a child)	
Salt and pepper (purchased as a pair about 3" tall)	
Dishwashing detergent	

Canned veggies, fruit, soup would also be welcomed as would pasta, sauces, peanut butter, and jelly. These are some non-traditional items that are always welcome.

8. Ohio doesn't underfund education, we misspend money.

Your answers are wrong and redundant. See your grade on answer #6. The massive misspending by the state has been the tens of millions of fraudulent dollars given to charter school operators like Bill Lager and ECOT.

Grade: F

Vouchers Hurt Ohio

On January 4, 2022, a lawsuit was filed in Franklin County Common Pleas Court challenging the constitutionality of the rapidly growing private school voucher program that is siphoning away hundreds of millions of dollars from public school students, teachers, classrooms and communities.

Former Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice and current Columbus City Schools Board Member Eric Brown said the lawsuit asks the judicial system a simple, but critical question: "Where does the Ohio General Assembly get the power to fund private school vouchers? The power is now where to be found in the Ohio Constitution. In fact, the Ohio Constitution forbids it. Lawmakers have the authority and responsibility to fund "a" system of "common schools," with common standards and resources for all of Ohio's taxpayers, parents and students," Brown said at a press conference outlining the lawsuit. "Funding schools that aren't for everybody is not the business of the Ohio General Assembly, and it is not the responsibility of Ohio taxpayers to pay for these private schools," Brown said.

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

St. John Vianney Social Hall
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor

Due by January 31, 2022
NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

Please send reservation form with your payment to:

Susan McCarter
9720 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060
440.639.1141

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

Please reserve _____(s) for the TUESDAY, February 8, 2022 LCRTA luncheon at \$ 21.50 per person

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Lunch (Choose 1) _____ Beef Stew served in a Bread Bowl _____ Veggie Stew served in a Bread Bowl

Salad Apple Crisp/Ice Cream Beverages

Social time 11:00am Program Begins at 11:30am

Vouchers Continued....

“Funding schools that aren’t for everybody is not the business of the Ohio General Assembly, and it is not the responsibility of Ohio taxpayers to fund these private schools,” Brown said. “The Ohio General Assembly either knows they are violating the Ohio Constitution and doesn’t care or the members who support expanding the private school vouchers need a history lesson themselves.”

William L. Phillis, executive director for the Coalition of Equity & Adequacy of School funding, was instrumental in leading the successful court challenge to the way Ohio pays for public schools during the 1990’s.

“The DeRolph school funding lawsuit was the case of the 20th century. The EdChoice private school voucher lawsuit filed on January 4, 2022, is destined to be the case of the 21st century,” Phillis said. “In fact, the private school voucher system is siphoning off hundreds of millions of dollars from an already underfunded system of public schools. The legislature and the governor are putting our state and our public school children at risk and they admit it.”

Nneka Jackson, a school board member with the Richmond Heights School District in Cuyahoga County, said private school vouchers are making school segregation in Ohio worse, not better. “If someone tells you this is about helping minority children, hook them up to a lie detector test asap and stand back because the sparks are going to fly,” Jackson said. “About 40 percent of Richmond Heights residents are white. Before the EdChoice private school voucher program about 26 percent of students at Richmond Heights were white and 74 percent were of color.

Today, after EdChoice, Richmond Heights has three percent while and 97 percent students of color,” Jackson said.

“Private schools are allowed to discriminate, plain and simple, based on disability, disciplinary records, academic standings, religious and financial standings. These are often proxies for race and other protected characteristics. Ohio is essentially engaged in state-sponsored discrimination in admissions and retention. You know who can’t do this? Public schools, Common schools,” Jackson said.

Dan Heintz, a board member of Cleveland Heights-University Heights School district, said his district lost \$27million to private school vouchers, and this forced voters to pass two levies to raise property taxes. Heintz said 95 percent of our EdChoice users have never been enrolled in one of our schools. “So contrary to the narrative, these families aren’t fleeing a failing school. They are fleeing a tuition bill. A private school tuition bill that is now being paid by the Ohio taxpayers,” Heintz said.

Eric Resnik, a school board member from Canton City School System in Stark County, said high school students receive a \$7,500 voucher while public school students receive far less from the state in basic education funding. “There is no truth to the claim by voucher proponents the “money follows the student,” Resnik said. “To those who say the money should follow the student, I ask why the discrepancy? Why should voucher students get \$7,500 and some public school students get one-fifth or less than that amount? If the money were truly following the student, then each public school student should get \$7,500.”

Due to space limitations the final Legislative article can not be placed in the newsletter. Please go to the Lake County Teachers Association website at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com>—look under “Legislative News” for an article: “Ohio Senate Passes Bill to Allow Concealed Firearms Without a Permit” Sorry for the inconvenience!



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**LAKE COUNTY RETIRED
 TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

LCRTA
9399 Ridgeside Drive
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Website
<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com>



STATE TEACHERS
 RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 OF OHIO



Informative & Protective Services...

If you are still in need of booster shots or at home tests contact the Lake County General Health District at (440)350-2188 or email COVID19@lcghd.org. Lake Tran will provide free transportation. In early December, I was able to obtain free COVID tests at my local health department (Geauga County) and my husband and I were able to obtain boosters on a no appointment, walk-in basis. At that time all local libraries also offered free at home kits. Tests are very limited. By the time you read this all may have changed. Things seem to change daily. If you are in need of testing or booster shots, contact your local health department.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 31, 2022 Dining to Donate-Quaker Steak & Lube -11:00am-8:00pm
- January 31, 2022 - Deadline for LCRTA Luncheon Reservations
- February 8, 2022 - LCRTA Luncheon/Meeting Program....Dan Ruminski
- April 10,2022-Ten Below: The One Act Festival-Fine Arts

Delta Kappa Gamma Scholarship Information 2022 College Scholarship Information

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education. The Lake County Gamma Iota Chapter will award one merit-based scholarship for \$1,500. In order to be considered the female college student **MUST:**

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

Application must be completed and submitted by March 13,2022.

Previous recipients are not eligible for this scholarship. All applicants will be notified of the committee selection by March 25, 2022. The award recipient will be invited to attend a luncheon on April 2 to receive the award.

TO OBTAIN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION GO TO:

DKGScholarship@gmail.com

AUGUST 4, 2022

DISNEY'S "NEWSIES" THE MUSICAL

DUE: TBA

Meet at the Perry Family Restaurant for dinner on our own off the menu. Drive a quick 11 minutes to **Rabbit Run Theater ("The Barn")** at 5648 Chapel Road in Madison for the Broadway hit based on the Disney film with music by Allen Menken. Follow the rousing tale of charismatic news boy Jack Kelly as he and his fellow newsies rally to clash with New York City's titans of publishing to fight for their rights. Set in the turn-of-the century and inspired by a true story, *Newsies* is packed with non-stop thrills, great dance numbers and a timeless message—perfect for the whole family and every audience. **COST: TBD CONTACT: Sherry Niederkorn 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com DEADLINE: TBA**

MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT CRUISE:

September 25 thru October 3, 2022 - Mississippi Riverboat Cruise "Charms of the South"

Staterooms on this 9-day "CHARMS OF THE SOUTH" Mississippi River cruise from New Orleans to Memphis on the American Queen Steamboat are filling up fast. We have over 30 participants registered already, so be sure to book your sailing soon, so you don't miss the boat...Literally! Ports of call include New Orleans LA, Nottoway LA, St. Francisville LA, Natchez MS, Vicksburg MS, Port of the Mississippi Delta, and Memphis TN. Visit the American Queen Steamboat Company website for more information.

<https://www.americanqueensteamboatcompany.com/river-cruises/mississippi-river/charms-of-the-south/>

Stateroom categories range between \$2,299 and \$4,099 according to your preference (*based on a minimum group booking of 10 cabins*). Airfare, Local Transfers, Port Fees, Gratuities and Optional Excursions are additional and are yet to be determined. The deposit is \$500 and final payment will be due 120 days before the trip begins. **Contact Mike Benz from Professional Travel in Cleveland at 440-804-6933 or mbenz@protrav.com for availability.** Mike will be coordinating our flights, transfers, insurance, and cabin reservations. Checks should be made payable to "Professional Travel," but a credit card deposit is recommended. **Sherry Niederkorn at sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com is our group leader for this trip. [Click here to download the flier.](#)**

"THE GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE" RIVERBOAT CRUISE

This trip is being planned for **October of 2023**. Exact dates not yet published. The *Great Rivers of Europe* is Grand Circle Cruise Line's flagship river cruise. This adventure takes you from Amsterdam to Vienna (or vice versa) aboard a privately owned riverboat that offers half picture, full picture, and balcony cabins. Their river cruises have between 140-160 travelers, broken up into groups of 35 for excursions. Their world class Program Directors will lead our group from start to finish, taking in daily activity with you – and they supplement the tours you get from local city guides. This particular itinerary includes:

- 41 meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners. Complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks with all meals aboard the ship
- Accommodations for 14 nights aboard one of GCCL's privately owned riverboats, in an outside cabin
- 12 included tours with personal headsets and 5 exclusive Discovery Series events: German Immigration discussion, German lesson, Glassblowing demonstration, Home Hosted Kaffeeklatsch, Rhine-Main-Danube Canal transit discussion
- Sightseeing tours including 10 shore excursions: Vienna, Passau, Regensburg, Nuremberg, Bamberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Koblenz, Heidelberg, Cologne & Amsterdam
- Captain's welcome & farewell cocktail receptions
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters

Grand Circle Travel strongly recommends that **travelers looking for a "single reservation" to place a refundable deposit as soon as possible** – so they get first pick. Read more about the trip here!

The Great Rivers of Europe 2022 www.gct.com/sge22

Here's how you can pre-register for this tour with our group before it is open for public sale:

1. Call GCT Reservations: 800-221-2610
2. Mention Group Code: 3472
3. Advise the Travel Counselor that you want to pre-register for The Great Rivers in October 2023 with the Lake County Retired Teachers Association group.
4. The deposit to pre-register for this tour is \$500 per person. This deposit is 100% fully refundable for any reason until you confirm your reservation after the official dates and prices are released. **COST: TBD per person for double, TBD per person for single.**

CONTACT PERSON: Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com.