



# THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 59 No. 1

January, 2023

## A Message from the President.....

As I was wrapping some gifts for a holiday white elephant gift exchange at a friend's house before Christmas/Hanukkah, I became aware of the particular wrapping I was using. It was a snowflake design. I was reminded that all snowflakes are different and individual. Each one has its own pattern, size, and a slight difference in shape. That made me think of the countless ways that our membership is different yet similar. We are all connected to education in some way, most of us having been a teacher in one of the Lake County or surrounding districts, but each of us have different interests and talents.

I hope this organization can help complement and enhance those interests and talents.

I am grateful for everyone who gives so much to the group, especially board members. As a New Year begins I want to thank everyone who is involved in any way in making the Lake County Retired Teachers Association a great organization.

Wish you all a wonderful New Year! Stay Warm!

*Cathy Trepal*

President

## The STRS TRUTH

Tom Moscovic-Legislative Chair

### Auditor of State Completes Special Audit of STRS Ohio

The Ohio Auditor of State's office released the report of its special audit of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio). The special audit found no evidence of fraud, illegal acts or data manipulation related to the funds held in trust by STRS for its members. The special audit's findings include, "STRS' organizational structure, control environment and operations are suitably designed and well monitored, both internally and by independent experts. These experts help assure that STRS follows applicable asset and liability measurement, reporting, investing and cash management laws, professional standards, and best practices. Our conclusions are consistent with the findings of these independent firms."

STRS Ohio Executive Director Bill Neville shared, "I appreciate the thoroughness of the special audit conducted by the Auditor of State in response to complaints received from some teachers and retirees. It is noteworthy that the special audit's findings refute much of the in-accurate information circulated about STRS Ohio over the past two years, and the report provides extensive detail and analysis of its conclusions. I want our members to know that STRS Ohio remains steadfast in our dedication to ensuring the sustainability of the pension fund and providing financial security to current and future generations of Ohio's educators."

Carol Correthers, an intervention specialist for Lorain City Schools and Chair of the State Teachers Retirement Board, commented, "As a career teachers who is depending on STRS Ohio for a pension when I retire, it gives me peace of mind that Auditor Faber's team has conducted such an extensive review. Ohio's teachers can have confidence our pensions are safe."

The special audits findings are consistent with those of a fiduciary performance audit, commissioned by the Ohio Retirement Study Council, completed earlier



LCRTA Luncheon Meeting  
February 14, 2023  
Mentor Methodist Church  
8600 Mentor Avenue

11:00 Social Hour

Program "George Washington" aka Dale Fellows  
Welcome the newly inaugurated President.

See Reservation Sheet.....Page 3  
Reservations due by February 3, 2023

Legislative continued...

this year by Funston Advisory Services LLC. The fiduciary performance audit found that STRS Ohio is operationally excellent with effective operational policies and processes.

Founded in 1920, STRS Ohio is a pension that provides services and benefits to nearly 500,000 active, inactive and retired Ohio educators. Membership includes all licensed teachers and administrators of Ohio's public schools; faculty of Ohio's public colleges and universities; and educational employees of the Ohio Department of Education. STRS Ohio is governed by a Retirement Board consisting of 11 members. It is operated under Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code and is legally separate from and fiscally independent of state and local governments.

For more information and conclusions please visit the STRS Website

### **Delta Kappa Gamma**

#### **2023 College Grant-in Aid Application 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 grant-in-aid for \$1,000. **In order to be considered for this \$1,000 award, the female college student MUST:**

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

Go to [DKGscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:DKGscholarship@gmail.com) to request an application form. The application must be **completed and submitted by March 12, 2023** to be considered for this award. Previous recipients are not eligible for this grant-in-aid.

All applicants will be notified of the committee Selection by March 24, 2023.

Our local chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma looks forward to reading your application. YOU are the future of education! Gook luck!

## **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

*By Louise Bennet*



Stop, Think, Look! Are you presently or have you recently put away everything having to do with Christmas?? As mentioned previously, we are collecting Christmas items that you no longer need or want in order to pass them on to those who would appreciate having them. There is no cost to you other than the time you spend in gathering your donations. Anything useable to do with the Christmas Holiday is acceptable and appreciated. Below are just some ideas:

Candles

Hours of recorded music or movies

Ribbons, bows, bags, gift boxes, and wrapping paper

Incidentals

Scented pine cones

Towels and table cloths

Mugs, bowls, and plates

All kinds of tree decorations

Strings of lights

I thank each of you for any and all donations you make. Our community service projects are always successful in helping others in Lake County.

## **LCRTA Scholarship Committee News**

*By Tim Niederkorn*

Scholarship application materials were sent out December 1, 2022, and applications have already begun to arrive. The deadline for applications is March 17, 2023.

The next "Dine to Donate" scholarship fundraising event is coming up on January 30, 2023, at The Texas Roadhouse (6095 Commerce Circle) in Willoughby. The hours for the event are 4pm to 8pm. Present the flyer and Texas Roadhouse will donate 10% of your check to the LCRTA scholarship fund. You can download the flyer from the LCRTA website.

## **NCI-Willoughby Invites Retirees to Salon**

The students from the Cosmetology Department at the Northern Career Institute in Willoughby have been practicing their skills and are ready to accept customers for services in the salon. The students need to gain experience in their field under the supervision of their teacher, Jennifer Conti. The Salon is located at 34343 Euclid Avenue, Willoughby. Call **440-602-5140** to make an appointment and get prices. **Open 11:30-2:00 Wednesday-Friday.**

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation      Mentor United Methodist Church      Due February 3, 2023  
8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor

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

Social time 11:00AM

Susan McCarter  
9720 Johnnycake Ridge Road  
Mentor, Ohio 44060  
440.639.1141

Make all checks payable to LCRTA

\$14.00 per person

Please reserve \_\_\_\_ (s) for the Tuesday, February 14, 2023, LCRTA luncheon

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

Please list names of all attending on this line

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

Lunch: (Choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Salad Wrap Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Wrap Sandwich  
Pasta Salad, Cookie, Coffee and Water

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

Reservations will not be accepted after February 3, 2023

## Informative & Protective Services

By Janene Ishee

### -ISMS

Having worked in an educational system, we all have developed our sense of humor even if in a strange way. I am an English teacher and worked with GED students for many years. This article was a good "fit" for me and still makes me laugh because I grew up on a farm. Hope you enjoy it as well.

Dear Ann:

I am an English teacher, and my students are reading *George Orwell's* "1984." I am having a difficult time explaining communism, socialism, and fascism without giving a time-consuming history lesson. I recall you printed a humorous explanation of these concepts using cows. Will you please print it again? I am sure it will Kick-start a lively class discussion.      A Teacher in Mississippi

It's an "oldie" but a "goldie" Here it is:

**Socialism:** You have two cows. Give one cow to your neighbor.

**Communism:** You have two cows. Give both cows to the government, and they may give you some milk.

**Fascism:** You have two cows. You give all of the milk to the government, and the government sells it.

ISMS con't....

**Nazism:** You have two cows. The government shoots you and takes both cows.

**Anarchism:** You have two cows. Keep both cows, shoot the government agent and steal another cow.

**Capitalism:** You have two cows. Sell one, buy a bull.

Program for February 14, 2023 by Connie Irvin

Just in time for President's Day, hear newly inaugurated President George Washington (1732-1799) discuss winning the Revolutionary War, the creation of the Constitution, and his thoughts on being the first President of the United States(1789-1797).

Dale Fellows will take us back to the 18th Century. He has studied the Founding Fathers for over 15 years with extensive reading and research. He is a regular visitor and contributor to the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. His passion for this period of American History, coupled with his desire to educate the public about the formation of our country, has led him to portray the most important of all the Founding Fathers: George Washington.

This is the first edition of the *Bellringer* sent to all members with an email address by email. Please let me know that you have received this email by simply sending the message "YES" to [sawitke@oh.rr.com](mailto:sawitke@oh.rr.com). Thank you. I look forward to seeing you at the February 14, 2023 meeting.



## THE BELLRINGER

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 14, 2023 Luncheon/Meeting  
Mentor Methodist Church 11:00am
- April 11, 2023 Luncheon/Meeting TBA
- April 16, 2023 “Noises Off” at the Beck Center
- April 30, 2023 Sights Unseen in Cleveland
- May 30, 2023 Lake County Baseball Game
- June 9 thru 11, 2023 Mackinac Island and Lilac Festival
- June 13, 2023 Luncheon Meeting TBA

Are you moving, have a new phone number, a new email address or know of a fellow retiree who would be interested in joining LCRTA, PLEASE let us know.

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

## 2023 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

**April 16, 2023 - "Noises Off" at the Beck Center**

**April 19, 2023 - Sights Unseen in Cleveland**

**May 30, 2023 - Lake County Baseball Game**

**June 9 thru 11, 2023 - Mackinac Island and Lilac Festival**

**June 29, 2023 - "Anything Goes" at Rabbit Run Theater**

**September 14, 2023 - Ghost Walk of Willoughby**

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

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

### 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!!**

### **Sunday, April 16, 2023 - "Noises Off" at the Beck Center (one day trip)**

Join us for a trip to the Beck Center for the Arts... followed by an optional dinner at Market Street Family Restaurant. Climb aboard the luxurious 30-passenger limousine bus for a ride to Lakewood to see the hilarious comedy of "Noises Off." Conceived when English playwright Michael Frayn was watching a performance from the wings. He said, "It was funnier from behind than in front, and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind." And write a fabulous farce he did! Come watch a tennis match of hilarious comedy. "Noises Off" is a precision-timed laugh machine." Contact Sherry Niederkorn at [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com) or 440-477-1198 with questions. Tour limited to 30 people maximum.

### **Wednesday, April 19, 2023 - Sights Unseen in Cleveland (one day trip w/Great Day! Tours)**

Highlights of this tour include: a visit to the Hay-McKinney Mansion (built in 1911 for Clara Hay, daughter of Amasa Stone and wife of John Hay), a stop at the Car and Truck museum (with Peerless automobile), optional ride on the Euclid Beach Carousel, lunch at Guarino's Restaurant in Little Italy, admission to the Cleveland Botanical Gardens in University Circle (with outdoor gardens, glasshouse & butterfly-filled rainforest), and seeing the capital investments at the Cleveland Museum of Art (with the bronze sculpture known as "The Thinker"). Contact Gail Allcock at [gailallcock@gmail.com](mailto:gailallcock@gmail.com) or 440-477-6830 for more information.

### **Tuesday, May 30, 2023 - Lake County Captains Baseball Game (one day trip)**

Tuesdays are famous for being "BUCK NIGHT" at Classic Park for the Lake County Captains Baseball games and Tuesday, May 30th is no exception! Come help us cheer on the Lake County Captains as they play against the Quad Cities River Bandits. Only a dollar for a Five Star brand hot dog, 12-ounce fountain drink or 12-ounce domestic draft beer. Other options available including Meal Voucher, Merchandise package and Parking Passes. Flier and more details forthcoming. Contact Sherry Niederkorn at [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com) or 440-477-1198 with questions.

## **June 9 thru 11, 2023 - Mackinac Island and Lilac Festival (3 days w/Great Day! Tours)**

Join your LCRTA friends for a 3-day weekend to visit Mackinac Island June 9 -11, 2023 while lilacs are in bloom. Mackinac Island is a quaint village where motor vehicles are not allowed. After disembarking from the Mackinaw City ferry on Saturday, there will be a Mackinac Island tour aboard a horse-drawn carriage. Lunch will be served in the Grand Hotel which overlooks the Straits of Mackinac. Visit the downtown shops and view delicious fudge being made. For those interested in "gaming," plan to cross the Mighty Mac Bridge to visit the Kewadin Casino in St. Ignace. Sunday we will visit Frankenmuth to have a midday dinner at the Bavarian Inn. Shop at Bronners CHRISTmas Store and visit the Silent Night Chapel before departing for home. This tour includes 2 nights, two dinners and 2 breakfasts. Cost is \$738 per person double or \$942 per person single. Deposit: \$100 per person by February 1, 2023. Contact Kathy Kling at [kathyk5773@aol.com](mailto:kathyk5773@aol.com) or 440-487-3806 with questions.

## **Thursday, June 29, 2023 - "Anything Goes" at "The Barn" at Rabbit Run**

Transportation is not included. Meet the group at the Perry Family Restaurant to order off the menu for an optional dinner on your own. Travel a few minutes down the road to "The Barn" for a musical, with music & lyrics by Cole Porter. A hilarious shipboard romp wrapped in one of Cole Porter's most magical scores. Full of mistaken identities, hidden romance and hijinks galore, *Anything Goes*, is musical entertainment at its best. It's delightful, delicious and de-lovely! Tickets are \$26 per person (based on 20 participants). An included special treat at intermission, just for our group, is one of the perks of "traveling with LCRTA!" Contact person is Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com).

## **Thursday, September 14, 2023 - Ghost Walk of Willoughby**

At our September General Membership Meeting, members will be treated to the presentation by Cathi Weber on "Haunted Willoughby." As a follow up to this presentation, there will be a Ghost Walk throughout haunted historic downtown Willoughby with ghostly tales and frightening legends on the Thursday following the luncheon meeting! This lantern-lit tour is a guided tour on darkened pathways past apparitions and murderous mysteries as we explore stories of grave robbers and much more. The tour will last slightly under 2 hours. Cost is yet to be determined. Contact Gail Allcock 440-477-6830 or [gailallcock@gmail.com](mailto:gailallcock@gmail.com) for more details.

## **October 6-21, 2023 – “The Great Rivers of Europe” Riverboat Cruise (Grand Circle Travel)**

The base trip is from October 6 -21 with optional excursions available to Bruges and Prague. There are three single cabins left, so why not join us for The Great Rivers of Europe. Travel on the Rhine, Main, and Danube Rivers with opportunities to explore cities such as Amsterdam, Cologne, Koblenz, Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Wertheim, Wurzburg, Bamberg, Nuremberg, Passau, Melk and Vienna, Here's how you can pre-register for this tour with our group:

1. Call GCT Reservations: 800-955-1925
2. Mention Group Code : GG33472
3. Advise the Travel Counselor that you want to register for The Great Rivers on October 6, 2023 with the Lake County Retired Teachers Association group.
4. You can SAVE a percentage off the total price of your trip if you pay in full two weeks after booking.

Contact Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or [sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com](mailto:sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com) to inform her of your interest.

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

A motorcoach tour with Great Day! Tours. This tour is sure to get you in the Holiday Spirit. The city is located at the southern tip of the Cape May Peninsula where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. More information will be included in further issues. Contact is Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or [swreinhard4@yahoo.com](mailto:swreinhard4@yahoo.com).

## **Sometime in 2024 - Visit to Hawaii with cruise (Multi-day trip)**

We have begun to research options for a visit to Hawaii, with a cruise of the islands, in 2024. More information will be posted when it is available. Stay tuned and check back. TBD





# DINE TO DONATE

»» *Support* ««

**LAKE COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
4PM-8PM**

# 10%

## DONATION NIGHT

for Lake County Retired Teachers Association.

Present this flyer at the Willoughby location and Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of your total food purchases to Lake County Retired Teachers Association!

**440-833-0570  
6095 COMMERCE CIRCLE  
WILLOUGHBY, OH**



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