



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers

Volume 58 No.2

April, 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

Hello Fellow Members and Happy Spring to all!

Now it is everyone's turn to "spring into action" to make reservations and come to our April Meeting. We may be retired from our educational careers, however, we should never tire of (1) solidifying our friendships with each other; (2) learning about the current issues presented by our Legislative and Informative & Protective Service Chair; (3) experiencing new thoughts given by our program speaker; and finally, (4) supporting our community's needs in what ever way our Community Participation Chair asks us to do.

You see, this is what happens when coming to a Membership Meeting. You and your brain will feel so much better!

Come out, on April 12 because I, for one, will be so grateful that we can do this in peace and harmony.

Ginny Keller, President



Texas Roadhouse April 19, 2022

Dining to Donate

Please join us for dinner at Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, as we help to raise funds for the LCRTA Scholarships. Hours for the fundraiser are 3:00pm to 8:00pm. Simply present the flier to your server and 10% of your total food for both "dine-in" and "to-go" orders (Excluding taxes, tips and alcoholic beverages) will be donated to the organization. Texas Roadhouse is located at 6095 Commerce Circle (near the intersection of Routes 90 and 91) in Willoughby.

Fliers will be available at the April luncheon and can also be downloaded from the LCRTA website on the "Scholarship News" page at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/scholarship-news.html> The Scholarship Committee

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

By Terri Herbert

Alerts from the Lake County Sheriff's Office Wireless Emergency Notification Systems (WENS)

In January 2021, the Lake County Emergency Management System (WENS) upgraded our VESTA Alert system to the Wireless Emergency Notification System to help notify our citizens during our times of emergency. The new system adds to the capability of reaching Lake County citizens with important emergency information through automated voice calls, text messages, and emails. Residents may also opt to receive NOAA Weather Warnings (i.e. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Lake Effect Snow Warnings, etc.)

All messages originating from Lake County will include important information, along with instructions on what to do during the emergency. Specific criteria has been designated for the use of WENS. The criteria could be any one more of the following:

- Conditions exist where affected resident could be, or have the potential to be in immediate danger
- There is a potential for serious risk to life and property
- Notification could aid in the apprehension of a criminal suspect
- Notification could aid in the safe return of a lost child
- Notification could aid in the safe return of a mentally, physically or emotionally challenged individual or an elderly patient (walk away from a nursing facility)

In order to receive this important information, all you have to do is make sure you're registered in our database. All residents of Lake County with a published landline telephone number, and up via the old VESTA self-registration portal, were imported into the new WENS system. Anyone that wishes to add, or update, their cell phone to receive emergency notification calls, text messages, emails or the optional weather alerts needs to provide their information on the form available at https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/lake_oh/wens.cfm

All information provided to the Lake County EMA via the self-registration portal will not be shared with anyone for any reason. It is important that this information is shared with us, so that we may keep you safe in times of emergency,

LEGISLATIVE REPORT....

By Tom Moscovic

GOP Sets Sights on Public Education.....Current Legislation Pending

Universal vouchers (House Bill 290)

The biggest potential change lurking in the legislature is the “backpack bill.” If passed, every school –aged child would be eligible for either a \$5,500(K-8 grade) or \$7,500 (9-12 grade) voucher. Parents could spend these dollars on private school tuition, home school supplies, advanced placement testing or education therapies.

“HB290 would create a true money follows the child approach to education funding,” bill sponsor Rep. Riordan, McClain, R– Upper Sandusky, said when he introduced the idea in October. The bill had its first hearing in February and one of the biggest outstanding questions was how much could this cost Ohio.

“I can’t imagine a fiscal note of less than \$1billion if you are going to give all current, private and home school students a voucher,” Aldis said. And that is what worries many Democrats and public school advocates.

Ohio doesn’t have \$1 billion to spare in the budget in its budget. Nor can the state shave that the money from its education funds without making serious cuts.

It’s about providing tuition subsidies to the people who have already chosen not to go to public school,” said Steve Dyer, the director of government relations for the Ohio Education Association.

Teaching “divisive concepts”(Bills 322 and 327)

One of the biggest issues in education over the last year Has been the debate over how schools teach about racism, slavery and other “divisive concepts.” Supporters believe a set of rules outlining the parameters of these discussions will protect the “accurate” teaching of American history and keep teachers from pushing, “dangerous” and “divisive” ideologies in students. Opponents say the laws are designed to “whitewash” history and intimidate teachers and keep kids from participating in the political process. Lawmakers haven’t voted on either, but House Bill 327 has had five committee hearings and multiple amendments. The sponsors say they are working to find consensus around language that can pass.

Posting curriculums online (House Bill 529)

Republican Rep. Brett Hillyer proposed a way to “tone down” the heated rhetoric around “divisive concepts” by mandating teachers post their curriculum online. “I don’t have to get into the minutia of what is being taught,” Hillyer said when introducing the idea in January. I can just say ‘Hey, let’s make it available to parents,’” The Tuscarawas County Republican didn’t think his plan would create extra work for educators either. Ohio law already requires schools to provide course material upon request.

But Heather Stambaugh, a history teacher from Green-on Local School District, said it is not about the work so much as the message. “It’s the implication of ‘Look, they are hiding something,’ she said.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

With LCRTA holding five meetings a year, (fingers crossed we can continue) and because there are more than five causes in our county which lend aid to those in those in need, I try to rotate the collections at our luncheon meetings. It was September, 2019, when we last provided help to Hannah’s Home which is located in Mentor. This is a home for women who are pregnant and need a safe, supportive place to live; sometimes they are able to stay there after the birth of their child for an extended period of time. While at H.H., the women receive development/growth in four areas: spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental. A list of wanted donations follows:

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

Formula: Similac Alimentum
Enfamil Gentlease
Diaper Genie Refills
Diaper Genie Refilters
Size 3,4,5,diapers
Baby Wipes
Toddler Meals

GENERAL NEEDS:

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Non-Perishable food
Canned Fruit
cereal
healthy snacks, etc.

No matter what group we are helping, I hear nothing but many “Thank you” as our donations are so needed AND much appreciated. It warms my heart so, and I hope passing on a HUGE thank you to those of you who bring items to the meetings will also feel your heart warmed.

NOTICE: At the suggestion of a couple of members, it has been decided that LCRTA will begin collecting the pull tabs from aluminum cans. Possibly you are aware that Ronald McDonald House has been recycling these for years and ours will go there. Probably the easiest ones to remove are on beverage cans and with warmer weather on the horizon and increased use of these, please keep this idea in mind.

Now the Good News –STRS

At the February meeting of the State Teachers Retirement Board, actuarial consultant Cheiron provided further analysis of potential benefit improvements designed to benefit both active and retired members of the system. The board expressed interest in various options that included a one-time cost of living adjustment (COLA) for eligible benefit recipients and a change to the current age and service eligibility for active members, which would allow teachers of any age and service eligibility of to retire at any age (eliminating the age 60 requirement set to be put in place in 2026). The board is also considering a reduction in the member contribution rate to 13% from 14%. Cheiron will complete its analysis of the financial impact of the proposed changes at the March Board Meeting.

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

St. John Vianney Social Hall
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor

Due by APRIL 1, 2022
NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE
ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE

Please send reservation form with your payment for the April 12, 2022 luncheon 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 April, 12, 2022 LCRTA luncheon at \$ 21.50 per person

Name (s) _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Lunch (Choose 1) _____ Chicken Piccata _____ Vegetarian Lasagna

Red skin Potatoes. Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Apple Crisp, Beverages

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

IN MEMORIAM



Our Sympathies to the following families

Janice Christopherson

Joan McLeod

Andrew Rysko

Jean Shimrock

William Sopchak

LCRTA PROGRAMS 2022

Programs for LCRTA 2022: the following are programs scheduled for Luncheon and Business Programs for the Lake County Retired Teachers Association for the remainder of 2022;

April 12, 2022...Lake County and the Western Reserve area have introduced many inventions to the world. Remarkable men and women saw needs and looked for solutions. A representative from the Lake County History Center will tell the stories of everyday and not so everyday items that were invented in own backyard.

June 14, 2022...Flag Day! Sport your Red, White and Blue as we celebrate Flag Day. Bill Quinn from Quinn's

September 12 (DATE CHANGED TO MONDAY)

LCRTA Candidates Luncheon...Join us for lunch and hear the political candidates running for office talk about what they are going to do for you if they are elected.

November 15... Janet Weir Creighton will present a program on Christmas at the White House, its traditions and ornaments.



THE BELLRINGER

A Publication of the
LAKE COUNTY RETIRED
TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

LCRTA
9399 Ridgeside Drive
Mentor, Ohio 44060

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



STATE TEACHERS
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF OHIO



Lake County Retired Teachers

Volunteer Hours November 2020 - March 2021

Name _____

Phone _____

Volunteer Hours: _____

Please bring this tear off to the June luncheon OR
mail to:

Louise Bennet
7995 Burgundy Lane
Painesville, Ohio 44077



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 10, 2022-Ten Below: The One Act Festival-Fine Arts

April 12, 2022Membership, Business Meeting

June 28, 2022.....Lake County Baseball Game

July 12, 2022....."Something Rotten"

August 2, 2022...Disney's "Newsies" The Musical

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jan Koerwitz
10154 Candlestick Lane
Concord Twp. Ohio 44060

Ristau, Joyce
6052 Collins Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Scott, Thora
38405 Tamarac Blvd. Apt.101
Willoughby, Ohio 44094

2022 – 2023 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

JUNE 28, 2022 – LAKE COUNTY BASEBALL GAME – CLASSIC PARK
JULY 17, 2022 – “ SOMETHING ROTTEN” – BECK CENTER FOR THE ARTS
AUGUST 4, 2022 – “NEWSIES, THE MUSICAL” – RABBIT RUN THEATER
SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 3, 2022 – MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT CRUISE
NOVEMBER 29 – 30, 2022 – NIAGARA WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
OCTOBER 6 – 21, 2023 – GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE (GCT)

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.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com

SOCIAL/TRAVEL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gail Allcock, Sherry Barbieri, Kathleen Kling, Lynn Miller, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard

PLEASE check LCRTA Website www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com for any changes,
fliers, or order forms.

JUNE 28, 2022

LAKE COUNTY BASEBALL GAME

DUE: JUNE 12, 2022

Let LCRTA "take you out to the ballgame" for a rousing 7 PM contest between the Lake County Captains and the Lansing Lugnuts. It's Ohio Lottery Buck Night with \$1 hot dogs, \$1 fountain soda & \$1 domestic beer!

COST: See various prices on the Order Form that is on the website. **CHECKS:** Payable to "Lake County Captains" **MAIL ORDER FORM & PAYMENT TO:** Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, OH 44060. **CONTACT:** Sherry Niederkorn 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com

JULY 17, 2022

“SOMETHING ROTTEN”

DUE: APRIL 19, 2022

Meet in the Pediatric Dentist's parking lot behind the Market Street Family Restaurant at 8484 Market Street in Mentor, board the limousine with your fellow LCRTA Theater Lovers and travel to the Beck Center in Lakewood for the hilarious production of "SOMETHING ROTTEN." Set in 1595 the story of two brothers, who just happen to be the nemeses of a little known Mr. William Shakespeare, are desperate to write a hit play. A local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre will involve Singing, Dancing, AND Acting, *all at the same time!* Gasp! The brothers then decide to write a (wait for it) MUSICAL! The world's *very first* musical! We return via limousine to the Market Street Family Restaurant for dinner on our own chosen from the many possibilities on their extensive menu. Take a sneak peak at marketstreetmentor.takeout7.com/Ourmenu **COST:** \$60 based on 20 people (includes roundtrip transportation from Mentor to the Beck Center in Lakewood, gratuities and Theatre Ticket).

MAXIMUM: 30 participants **CONTACT:** Sherry Niederkorn 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com.

FLIER: Download the Order Form on the website.

AUGUST 4, 2022

DISNEY'S "NEWSIES" THE MUSICAL

DUE: JULY 7, 2022

Meet at the Perry Family Restaurant for dinner on our own off the menu. Drive a quick 11 minutes to "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:** \$26 (based on 20 participants) **CHECKS:** Payable to "LCRTA" and mailed to Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Drive, Mentor, OH 44060 **CONTACT:** Sherry Niederkorn 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com. **FLIER:** Download the Order Form on the website.

NOVEMBER 29 – 30, 2022

NIAGARA WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

DUE: TBA

SAVE THE DATES - More information in the May LCRTA Bellringer. Yes, the Canadian border *is* open. You will need a passport or passport card to re-enter USA.

SEPTEMBER 25 thru OCTOBER 3, 2022 - MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT CRUISE

"Charms of the South" (9 days/8 nights with American Queen Steamboat Company)

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. Details on the optional pre-trip (New Orleans) and post-trip (Memphis) are still pending. 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. Contact Mike Benz from Professional Travel in Cleveland at 440-804-6933 or mbez@protrav.com to make a reservation. Mike will be coordinating our flights, transfers, insurance, and cabin reservations. Checks should be made payable to "Professional Travel," but a credit card payment is recommended. **Sherry Niederkorn at sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com is our group leader for this trip.**

OCTOBER 6 – 21, 2023 "THE GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE" RIVERBOAT CRUISE

The *Great Rivers of Europe* is Grand Circle Cruise Line's flagship river cruise. This adventure takes you from Amsterdam to Vienna 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 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.**

The Great Rivers of Europe www.gct.com/sgc Base Trip Dates: 10/6 – 10/21/2023

Cabin Pricing/Deck Description (Per Person)

**Follow the link above to view the ship – look for "Accommodations" (left side of screen)*

Prelude – Lower Deck, Half Picture window. Price \$3795-4095

Cantata – Main Deck, Full Picture window. Price \$4395 (Price listed for Cantata E)

Sonata – Main Deck, Full Picture window. Price \$4495-4595

Serenade – Top Deck, Balcony. Price \$5095 (Price listed for Serenade A)

**Please note, balcony space does take away from the square footage of the cabin*

Pre and Post Trips: Bruges Pre Trip: \$895 with a 10/3 departure; Prague Post Trip: \$945 from 10/21 – 10/25;

Vienna Post Trip: \$795 from 10/21 – 10/24

How to book – New to the group

- Call the New Reservations department at 800-955-1925
- Mention Group Code GG 33472
- Place a deposit and add travel protection if needed

**Maximize the Good Buy Discount - Passengers must pay-in-full by ACH transfer of check in order to receive the Good Buy Discount. Credit card payments are not eligible to receive the Good Buy Discount.*

COST: Based on cabin selection per person, for double or single.

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