



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 59 No. 52

March 2023

From the President.....

As we contemplate the changing seasons, it brings to mind the changes in the "seasons in my life." We are born, reach adolescence, reach adulthood, experience old age and pass on to a new life. Although we do not like to think of the ending, like the seasons, each period of growth has its own joys and challenges. The coming of spring for instance, will bring joys: warmer weather, less heavy clothing needed, the return of some birds and animals, and my favorite flowers blooming. We may also face some challenges: possible allergies, annoying insects, deer eating our flowers etc., we are resilient enough to enjoy the changes.

Being a musically inclined person, I look to song to help me explain how I feel. In this case the song, "Turn! Turn! Turn! by the Birds comes to mind. Enjoy the joys and challenges of the changing seasons of nature and in your changing seasons of life!

Cathy Trepal

LCRTA Luncheon Meeting

April 11, 2023

Mentor Methodist Church

8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor, Ohio 44060

Program: Bob McFee will speak on his experience as an STRS Board Member

See Registration slip.....Page 3

Registration Due by March 31, 2023

Legislative News.....Tom Moscovic Homeschool Oversight???????

Tax Dollars Again

Ohio education leaders, lawmakers denounce online neo-Nazi homeschool channel

The channel is used on the app "Telegram."

Columbus, Ohio... Does there need to be more oversight of homeschooling in Ohio? That's the question after published reports of an online neo-Nazi homeschool surfaced over the weekend. Everyone 10TV spoke to about this, from the governor's office to the Ohio Department of Education, has condemned the curriculum this home-

school claims to use. Some have said it is vile, outrageous, and deeply upsetting. All agree there is no place for this type of hate.

Telegram is the messaging app used for what is called the "Dissident Homeschool Channel." It has more than 2,600 subscribers.

Posts are published by users who go by Mr. & Mrs. Saxon. People by those names have been interviewed on an anti-Semitic podcast. In one episode the couple said they were "having a rough time finding Nazi-approved school material" for their home-schooled children. We have not been able to independently confirm that the couple is here in Ohio, as both the Huffington Post and Vice have reported. We can confirm there is content on the channel regarding Ohio's proposed laws for home-schooling.

The Department of Education has confirmed it is aware of the articles about this. In Ohio law, ODE does not review or approve home-school curriculum. Now there is a call to action from those who say that needs to change.

"We need to really take a review on what's going on in our public policy and take this very seriously," said Ohio Board of Education member Teresa Fedor. "I'm calling the governor the day before he's giving his State of the State speech. Well. This is the state of the state that he needs to realize Ohio is in. And if you don't say something against this, then your silence is sanctioning this activity."

In a statement to 10TV, the press secretary to Governor DeWine wrote, "Racism and Antisemitism are vile and repugnant. Governor DeWine condemns them in all their forms."

Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, provided the following statement:

"I am outraged and saddened. There is absolutely no place for hate-filled, divisive and hurtful instruction in Ohio's schools, including our state's home-schooling community. I emphatically and categorically denounce the racist, antisemitic and fascist ideology and materials being circulated as reported in recent media stories. Each day educators, school leaders and family members work to make Ohio's school communities, including our home-schooling settings, places where students are encouraged, motivated and inspired through positive, inclusive and caring behavior. ODE is actively reviewing compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.

Disturbing Stuff-The Hits Just Keep Coming

By Tom Moscovic—Legislative Chair

YOUR Tax Dollars leaving YOUR School District Supporters of education overhaul make case in Ohio Senate committee

Workforce development components of a bill to overhaul education in Ohio by taking power from the state school board and putting it under the governors office was applauded by supporters in an Ohio Senate committee. Supporters ranged from business to career centers to the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, all of whom spoke out at the Senate Education Committee about the progress they believe the bill could make in developing workforce talent in the state, rather than bringing in employees from other states and countries.

Jamie Nash, Superintendent of the Buckeye Hills Career Center, which services Galia, Jackson and Vinton counties, said the career technical institutions have already expanded as educational centers for the state, and an overhaul in favor of workforce development could further that. “We are proven and for years have been the best kept secret,” Nash said. “However, it is time for Career Technical Education to have a seat at Ohio’s highest table of leadership.”

Senate Bill 1 would restructure the education department and bring more focus to college alternatives, Starting with renaming the department the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. A focus on workforce development is supported by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

“We want to see an education system in this state that is better aligned with the needs of Ohio’s employers.” said former state Rep. Rick Carfagna, now senior vice president of government affairs for the chamber.

Senate Bill 1’s sponsor, state Senator Bill Reinke, R-Tiffin, said though the education overhaul bill fell short of the votes needed for passage in the last General Assembly, that bill and its aims are still needed in the state. “The bill’s focus is still the same: to improve academic and workforce skills to drive better accountability and outcomes for our kids’ education and career readiness,” Reinke said at the previous committee hearing introducing the bill.

New Superintendent of Public Instruction position

The State Board of Education hasn’t moved on the hiring process for a new superintendent of public instruction-citing the legislature being poised to overhaul its role-and the superintendent position is headed for a change under the new bill. The head of the department would become a director, housed within the governor’s cabinet. The board of education’s role would change under the bill as well, with teacher licensure and professional conduct still under the purview of the board, but other administrative duties absorbed by the cabinet-level director position.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

THAT WAS A FIRST!

Having this position which includes delivering our contributions to the place receiving our aid, the most recent meeting was the first time it took TWO CARS to carry everything. Thank you to all who donated Christmas items in February and a special shout out to Pat Newyear and Thora Scott. Pat informed me about the existence of a collection of the items and she accompanied Thora who offered to allow her car to be filled to the brim and drove it to the unloading destination.

Now for another first. Since food insecurity has been highlighted in the news recently, and the fact the church where we meet has a Food Bank, let our focus be on “feeding” that food bank. With each of us bringing our food items to the church, we will each be doing a delivery. There are so many places in Lake County to which we could donate food, but in the end, the goal is to feed the hungry. Listed below are some suggested items:

Current Needs

Macaroni & Cheese
Scalloped Potatoes
Canned Chunky Soup
Marinara
Cereal

Also Listed

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pasta (any form)
Pasta Sauce
Canned Vegetables
Canned fruit
Canned tuna and chicken

Non-Food Items

Paper products
Hygiene Products
Dish soap/detergent
Food storage bags
Foil & plastic wrap

VOLUNTEER NEWS: Please send the volunteer hours cut-off found on the last page to:

Louise Bennet
7995 Burgundy Court
Painesville, Ohio 44077

Volunteer Hours:
October 2022-March 2023

We are looking for volunteers to help with the set up and clean up for future general meetings. (NOT FOR APRIL MEETING) If you would be willing to help please sign up on the paper you will find on the table where you enter the room. Thank you for taking your time to help with this task.

Legislative continued...

Home-schooling

Changes that have been made since the previous version of the bill died last year specifically address criticism of home-schooling regulations made as the bill was fast-tracked through education committees in December.

Reineke said SB 1 would “guarantee homeschooling families the ability to home-educate their child by exempting a child from compulsory school attendance when that child is receiving instruction in core subject areas from their parents. This comes amid a new investigation by the Department of Education into what’s been reported as a pro-Nazi home-schooling network run by a couple from Upper Sandusky. (See Legislative pg.1)



Luncheon Reservation Form MENTOR METHODIST CHURCH...8600 Mentor Avenue, Mentor

Send Reservation Form To:

Susan McCarter
9720 Johnnycake Ridge Road
Mentor, Ohio 44060
440.639.1141

Make all checks payable to LCRTA

DUE: March 31, 2023

\$15.50 per person

Please reserve ___ for the Tuesday, April 11, 2023

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Lunch: (Choose 1) ___ Turkey Club Wrap

___ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

Lunch includes: Potato Salad, Cookie, Coffee or Water

Legislative continued...

Voucher Expansion Bill

Education funding could also see some changes if a new school voucher expansion also introduced in the Senate committee hearing is approved. The expansion of private school subsidies, introduced in Senate Bill 11, is supported by organizations and private school advocates who say they are looking for a way for more students to be eligible to attend private schools in “underperforming” public schools in the same district.

Students are already eligible for vouchers in low-performing districts, but Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine has proposed expanding voucher income eligibility from 250% to 400%. Senate Republicans are looking to go further by opening vouchers to all students and increasing the amount of money received by thousands.

State Sen. Sandra O’Brien, R-Ashtabula, has said her bill would give \$5,500 for grades K through 8 and \$7,500 for high school students. Homeschoolers would also receive an expanded tax credit, from \$250 to \$2,000 per year, according to O’Brien, which can be used for “educational expenses such as books, supplies, software, subscriptions, and other materials that are used directly for home instruction.” “The bill would give universal eligibility to all students in the state” to private school vouchers, and can be used at public, community, and chartered non-public schools. It wouldn’t replace the Autism Scholarship or the Jon Peterson Special Needs programs. “All families, regardless of income, should have the power to choose schools for their children that wealthy families have,” O’Brien said.

Public school advocates have criticized the measure as a thinly veiled attempt to take money away from public schools and feed it to private, sometimes religious schools. After DeWine brought up a voucher expansion as part of his “state of the state,” address, unveiling his budget priorities for the year. Public education supporters said the increase in subsidy funding would create undue competition for education dollars.

Information & Protective Services by *Janene Ishee*

Informed Delivery-Mail & Package Notifications, FREE

Informed Delivery is a FREE service from USPS that shows images of incoming mail, plus status updates about your incoming and outbound packages.

See Photos of Your Mail Before It Arrives

1. Get Daily Digest emails that preview your mail and packages scheduled to arrive soon.
2. See images of your incoming letter-sized mail (grayscale, address side only)
3. Track and manage your USPS packages in one convenient place.

Sign Up for Informed Delivery

<https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm>

1. Create Your Account-Use your personal USPS account OR sign up for one today.
2. Verify Your Identity-Protect your privacy and personal information by verifying your identity and address.
3. Watch for Updates-Look for mail and package updates via email, the online dashboard, or the USPS Mobile® app.

I have used this service for several years now. It is FREE and very helpful. There is a link to a digest where you can see your mail activity for a week at a time or more in case you think you have missed something. If something is missing that they show as having been sent to you, you can request that the PO find it for you. It is particularly helpful if you are on vacation because you can see your mail that is being generated at home—whether you are forwarding your mail to your vacation spot or not.



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

Volunteer Hours Sheet for the months of
 October 2022-March 2023

Name _____

Phone# _____

Volunteer Hours: _____

Cut Out and Mail to:
 Louise Bennet
 7995 Burgundy Court
 Painesville, Ohio 44077

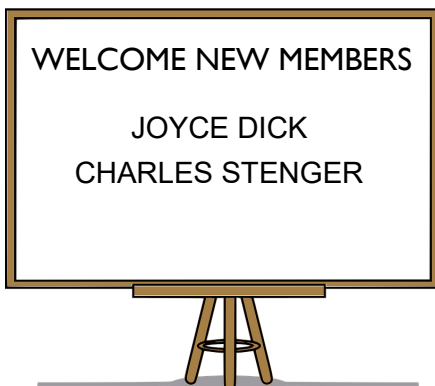
OR Email to:
bnlbennet@yahoo.com

OR Bring to the next luncheon-April 11, 2023



**MARK YOUR
 CALENDAR**

- April 11, 2023.....LCRTA Luncheon/Meeting
 Mentor Methodist Church 11:00am
- April 16, 2023....."Noises Off" at the Beck Center
- April 19, 2023.....Sights Unseen in Cleveland
- May 30, 2023.....Lake County Captains Baseball Game
- June 9-11, 2023...Mackinac Island and Lilac Festival
- June 29, 2023....."Anything Goes" at Rabbit Run Theater



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 Captains 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.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com

ALL FLIERS AND REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ON THE LCRTA WEBSITE:

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)

We only have a couple of seats left on the trip to the Beck Center for the Arts. We start our journey aboard the luxurious 30-passenger limousine bus for a ride to Lakewood to see the hilarious comedy of "Noises Off."

"Noises Off" is a precision-timed laugh machine." The show is followed by an optional dinner at Market Street Family Restaurant. Contact Sherry Niederkorn at sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com or 440-477-1198 for availability. Tour limited to 30 people maximum. See LCRTA website for flier with all the details.

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 or 440-477-6830 for more information. Cost is \$154 per person. Reservations are due by March 14, 2023.

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

Join Lake County fans to cheer for the Lake County Captains as they take on the Quad City River Bandits at Classic Park. Under new ownership, Classic Park is now cashless. Cash can be exchanged for Visa cards at no charge. Picantes and tacos will be on the menu (\$2 Tacos, \$2 Taquitos, Margaritas and Cutwater). Group tickets are \$12 each and parking passes are available for \$8. Make checks payable to "LCRTA" and mail with order form to Sherry Niederkorn by May 16th. Captains order forms can be downloaded on the LCRTA website. Contact Sherry Niederkorn at 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. Cost is \$738 per person double or \$942 per person single. Contact Kathy Kling at kathyk5773@aol.com or 440-487-3806 for availability.

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 is one of the perks of "traveling with LCRTA!" Contact person is Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com. Checks payable to “LCRTA” by June 1, 2023.

Thursday, September 14, 2023 - Ghost Walk of Willoughby

At our September 12, 2023 General Membership Meeting, members will be treated to the presentation by Cathi Weber on "Haunted Willoughby." Two days later, as a follow-up to this presentation, there will be a Ghost Walk throughout haunted historic downtown Willoughby with ghostly tales and frightening legends.. This lantern-lit adventure 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: \$18 adults, \$9 ages 6 – 12 and ages 5 and under are free. Contact Gail Allcock 440-477-6830 or gailallcock@gmail.com.

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. 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. Contact is Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com .

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

A motorcoach tour with Great Day! Tours. Celebrate the best of Cape May at Christmastime, with its gaslit streets, musicians and carolers; guests can visit Victorian homes, inns, and churches. The city is located at the southern tip of the Cape May Peninsula in New Jersey where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean. Highlights of this tour include the Physick Family Christmas House, a Cape May trolley tour of the Historic District, and a visit to the Carroll Gallery. Included also will be a winery tour and a presentation on Cape May's Christmas Traditions. Breakfast and dinner are included daily. A return stop in Lancaster, PA will be made for dinner and the show, “A Christmas Carol, The Musical”. The next day we attend a matinee performance of “The Miracle of Christmas” and then depart for home. The cost is \$1684 per person (double) and \$2084 per person (single). Deposit of \$100 is due now with check payable to “Great Day! Tours and mailed to Sarah Reinhard. Another payment of \$500 is due April 1st. Twenty seats are being held for LCRTA. Contact is Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com. See LCRTA website for flier and registration form.

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