



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 57 No. 3

May, 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT.....

DID YOU SEE IT? Better yet, did you read it and talk about it with others? I am referring to the News-Herald article on April 29, 2021 by Marah Morrison about us. I am very thankful that the community has an idea of who we are and what we do. Personally, I have had several calls about the article to which people have said, "I didn't know about this organization," to which I replied, "well, you do now. See what you have been missing." Because of this article, perhaps we may see a change in the increase of membership.

Speaking of change, the Board has become aware of the 12th Edition of the Revised Robert's Rules of Order. The five changes include the look of the book, terms of office for Directors, unmasking Executive sessions, rules for virtual meetings, and vice-presidential duties. No action was necessary from the Board because our Constitution states "that the most current revised edition shall be the parliamentary authority of the chapter." Here is link for those wishing to know the details:

<http://lastminutemeetings.net/top-5-changes-new-Roberts-rules-of-order/>

The Board is reaching out to all of you concerning this next change. Bonnie Lillibridge, our Yearbook Editor, submitted her letter of resignation effective December 31, 2021. For many years, Bonnie has produced a precise and informative yearbook and needs a well-deserved break from this duty. We thank you Bonnie for all your work in helping us, and now members, L.C.R.T.A needs YOU to fulfill this position!. Please be generous with your kindness.

Looking to the future, for our September 14th meeting, we are changing to an in person meeting/luncheon. Sue McCarter, our Meeting Chair, will be giving you details on this at a later date. For now, we will be zooming for our June 8, 2021 meeting at 11:30AM. "See" you then to learn about our three scholarship winners and our grant recipients.

I just returned from a delightful trip provided by our Social/Travel Committee. I had the pleasure of tiptoeing through thousands of tulips in Holland, Michigan. Although there were many wonderful experiences throughout the trip, the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture

Park blew me away. Please view their website at Meijer-Gardens.org to wet your appetite for a future visit. I leave you with Fred's words: "The legacy we leave our children and our grandchildren is how we teach them to honor the past, to take care of the present, to hope for the future." The statement is meant for us as well.

Ginny Keller, President

YEARBOOK UPDATE

Bonnie Lillibridge, Editor

The yearbooks were mailed out on April 8, 2021. Three envelopes were damaged while being processed at the post office and returned with no mailing address labels. If you did not receive your yearbook, please let me know and you will be sent another copy. Email addresses were included in the directory this time, so please check your information in the directory to make sure it is accurate.

Please make the following corrections, address changes and/or phone number changes in your copy of the LCRTA yearbook:

Corrections:

- **Sherry Barbieri** should be the contact person for the Albuquerque trip, **NOT Sarah Reinhard**.
- On the In Memoriam page, **Wilbur Black** was listed incorrectly as William Black.
- The correct date for the **December, 2021**, LCRTA Board meeting is **December 6, NOT November 18**.

Address Change:

Viola Hanna
36500 Euclid Avenue B676
Willoughby, Ohio 44094
Phone: 216.554.1945

Phone Number Changes:

David Gilmer..... 440.983.7977
Saundra Cobb..... 440.223.7676



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

Are you antsy from being home too much and for too long?? As most of us are vaccinated, perhaps you are looking for reasons to leave the house and change the scenery around you. Below are some suggestions that will achieve those goals and also allow you to do your part to improve the community. These organizations have a need for volunteers and most have websites. All phone numbers included have a 440 Area Code.

- **Lake Health** - help at the Front Desk and in the Gift Shops.....354.1665
- **Project Hope for the Homeless** - help needed various hours of the day at the shelter.....345.6417
- **Lake County Council on Aging** - urgent need for Meals on Wheels Program.....205.8111
- **American Red Cross** - virtual positions are available as well as at Blood Banks.....352.3171
- **United Way of Lake County** - assist with the annual food drive, mass mailings, and more.....352.3166
- **Hope Chest** - help organize and distribute gently used clothing and household goods to families in need; currently operating 9:30-12.30 on Tues. Wed. and Thur. See Facebook page to send message to volunteer.
- **Concord Twp. Community Garden** - asking for help.....639.4265
- **St. Gabriel Fook Bank** - call M-F between 10-1.....721.0306

Several other ideas. Perhaps your church could use a volunteer; many churches will be having Vacation Bible School again this summer. Other organizations to which you are a member may welcome your help.

NEWS FLASH: RSVP, which provides ways for those 55 and older to volunteer, is now known as Lake County Volunteer Network. It now also caters to those younger than 55 and is headquartered in the LC Administration Center in Painesville.....350.5360.

Collection of LCRTA Volunteer Hours: Please feel free to submit the number of hours you have served volunteering so far during 2021. The information can be mailed or emailed. See separate notice on the last page of this **Bellringer**.

INFORMATIVE & PROTECTIVE SERVICES

By Terri Herbert

AARP Smart Driver™Course

Many of us have been driving for many years. But are your driving skills up to par? Do you know what current laws are (many have changed since we got our license)?

AARP offers an on-line Smart Driver™Course. This defensive driving course teaches evidence-based strategies to keep you safe behind the wheel. It takes a total of four hours to complete, but you will have 60 days to compete it. And the cost is reasonable. Under \$30.00, with a discount for members. Best of all, refreshing your driving skills MAY save you money on your auto insurance.

The AARP Smart Driver™Course is the nation's first refresher course specifically designed for drivers age 50 and older. In many states, drivers may benefit from a discount on their auto insurance premium upon completing the course. You will learn something new along the way. In fact, an evaluation of the course found that 97% of participants changed at least one driving habit as a result of what they learned.

With this course you will:

- Receive a multi-year discount on your auto insurance. (may vary by company and state)
- Refresh your driving skills and your knowledge of the rules and hazards of the road.
- Reduce your chances of receiving a traffic violation or getting into an accident.
- Learn at your own pace - you will have 60 days to complete the course.

The AARP Smart Driver™online course covers:

- Research-based safe driving strategies.
- Information on the effects of medication on driving.
- Preventative measures to reduce driver distractions.
- Proper use of safety belts, air bags, Anti-lock brakes, and new technology used in cars today.
- Techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way, and roundabouts.
- State-specific rules and regulations in 19 key areas, including construction zones, child safety seats, school buses, cellphone use and more.
- Easy-to-follow format incorporating adult-learning principles.

So, what are you waiting for? Take this course on your own time line to become a better driver and to save money on your car insurance. Happy Driving!!



IN MEMORIAM

Our sincere condolences to the families of

Linda Clapacs
Norma Kuzik

LEGISLATIVE REPORT.....

By Tom Moscovic

FAIR FUNDING AND SOME FUN FACTS

New 'Best State' Survey: See Where Ohio Ranks

The timeless debate of which of the 50 states is the most popular and where Ohio ranks, continues with a recently conducted survey shedding new light on the subject.

A "best state" survey conducted in March by YouGov, a London-based research data and analytics group asked more than 1,200 Americans to choose the better of two states in a series of head-to-head matchups. Ohio was chosen 45% of the time it came up in the survey, ranking 33rd among the 50 states and District of Columbia.

Hawaii, at 69%, won the highest percentage of matchups, earning bragging rights as the best state in the survey. The Aloha State was followed by Colorado (65%) and Virginia (64%) as the states chosen most often. States chosen the least often were Alabama and Missouri, both at approximately 38%. But the District of Columbia, the only non-state option given to participants, was even less popular, getting the nod from only 35% of the respondents who saw it in a matchup.

All respondents were given seven state matchups, and no one was given the same state twice, YouGov said in its survey methodology.

The survey included no direction on how to choose between the states provided other than to pick which is better, leaving open a broad set of criteria for the participants to base their decisions. YouGov for the motto "home is where the heart is" rings true. Americans chose their home state 77% of the time it was shown and their current state of residence 79% of the time.

Ohio Facts:

AVERAGE STARTING SALARY: \$37,569 #39 in the nation
AVERAGE SALARY: \$61,406 #17 in the nation
PER STUDENT SPENDING: #26 in the nation

Fair School Funding Praised in Education Budget, Other Parts in Need of Second Look

School administrators and teachers unions praised the inclusion of a public school funding formula as part of the proposed state budget, but see other areas that could be improved or even removed. The budget bill passed by the house includes folds in the funding bill that's been running through a House committee as a standalone bill, and which has been in the works for years.

The six-year phase-in of the funding formula includes annual spending of nearly \$2 billion per year, but places the burden of funding the schools directly on the state, and allows for more study of the true cost of individual districts to educate students.

Melissa Cropper, President of the Ohio Federation of Teachers, said that the group supported HB1, the standalone school funding bill, but they are still evaluating the elements of it placed in to budget bill. Their motivation remains the same. "Ohio children have already waited too long for a school funding formula that lives up to the state's constitutional responsibility to fairly and fully fund public schools," Cropper told a meeting of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, now reviewing the budget.

Traditional public school districts will see their funding computed using the combined base costs of teachers, student support, district leadership and accountability, building leadership and operations and athletic co-curricular activities. The Legislative Service Commission estimates the statewide average base cost per pupil will be \$7,202.

Regarding the EdChoice private school voucher program, direct state payments will be made, rather than under the current system, where deductions are taken from the public school district where the student is a resident.

The use of public school funds to pay for a student's attendance at a private school has been a constant source of controversy, adding conflict to an already polarizing funding formula debate.

EdChoice scholarship payments, along with payments to other state scholarship programs - The Autism Scholarship Program and the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program will cost the state an estimated total of \$397.4 million in fiscal year 2022 and \$424 million in fiscal year 2023, according to the LSC budget analysis.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

Among the many parts of the education budget proposal, school administrators targeted funding for economically disadvantaged students as a point in need of improvement.

Under the proposal for traditional public schools, the base amount per student for disadvantaged pupil impact aid (DOIA) will increase from \$272 to \$422, and student wellness and success (wraparound funds used for non-academic purposes) can be spent for "certain initiatives."

But the requirement that districts partner with specific entities to decide on how the money would be spent was one of the issues Kate Johnson, of the Ohio Association of School Business Officials, said should be changed. "Instead we believe that districts should be provided with the flexibility in determining how best to meet the needs of their students and with which entities they will partner in meeting those needs."

This article in its entirety may be found on the LCRTA website at : lakecountyrta@weebly.com.

Information from the Capital Journal, Columbus



THE BELLRINGER
 A Publication of the
**LAKE COUNTY RETIRED
 TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

LCRTA
 9399 Ridgeside Drive
 Mentor, Ohio 44060



STATE TEACHERS
 RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 OF OHIO

VOLUNTEER HOURS SHEET for the Month(s) of _____ 2021

NAME _____

Phone # _____

Volunteer Hours: _____

Cut out & mail to:
 Louise Bennet
 7995 Burgundy Ct.
 Painesville, OH 44077

OR Email to:
bnlbennet@yahoo.com

Rev. 5/21ks LCRTA



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 8, 2021 Membership ZOOM Meeting 11:30am
- June 29, 2021 Lake County Captains Game
- July 22, 2021 Villa Croatia Hall "Lights Out"
- Aug. 20, 2021 Villa Croatia Hall "Walt Wise"
- Sept. 14, 2021 Membership Meeting/Luncheon TBA
- Oct. 8-13, 2021 Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Nov. 9, 2021 Membership Meeting/Luncheon
- Dec. 8-11, 2021 Nashville Aglow

If you have a NEW residence address, a new phone number or a new email address, PLEASE let us know so that we have correct information to keep everything up to date. Call or email to Karen Sawitke at 440.255.0764 or sawitke@oh.rr.com.

2021 – 2022 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

JUNE 29, 2021 – LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME
JULY 22, 2021 – VILLA CROATIA HALL – “LIGHTS OUT”
AUGUST 20, 2021 – VILLA CROATIA HALL – “WALT WISE”
OCTOBER 8 - 13, 2021 – ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA
DECEMBER 8-11, 2021 – NASHVILLE AGLOW – OPRYLAND HOTEL
SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 3, 2022 – MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT CRUISE

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

ALL INFORMATION, DEADLINES, AND EVENTS are at the mercy of COVID-19

OCTOBER 8 -13, 2021 ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA (RESCHEDULED from 2020)

Join us on an exciting 6 day trip to New Mexico with Premier World Discovery. This trip includes 2 nights in Albuquerque and 3 nights in Santa Fe, round trip airfare, and 7 meals. Some of the highlights are the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta – Dawn Patrol and Balloon Glow, Old Town Albuquerque, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, the Los Alamos Science Museum, a Santa Fe city tour, Loretto Chapel, the High Road to Taos with a Taos city visit and a Taos Pueblo tour. Tour rates are **\$2545 pp double + \$775 supplement for a single**. If your final payment is by **check**, there is a **\$200 booking discount** making your cost \$2345 pp double. A **\$300 deposit** will hold your place as long as space is available up until the **final payment due date of July 18, 2021**. Make checks out to **World Premier Discovery** and send to **Sherry Barbieri at 38147 Poplar Drive, Willoughby, OH 44094** with your reservation form. **For more information and reservation forms check our LCRTA website or call Sherry at 440-946-1628.**

FINE ARTS, BECK CENTER, and RABBIT RUN

These venues are working towards bringing back “in-person” performances to their stages. Please check with the websites of these organizations for any schedule updates and visit the LCRTA website for any further news.

CUT -----
DECEMBER 8 – 11, 2021 NASHVILLE AGLOW – OPRYLAND HOTEL DEPOSIT DUE: ASAP

Please Print

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SINGLE/ TRAVEL COMPANION _____

ENCLOSED IS MY PAYMENT (payable to **GREAT DAY! TOURS**) OF \$ _____ FOR _____ PERSON(S).

MAIL TO: Sarah Reinhard, 8677 Harvest Home, Mentor, OH **44060**.

CUT -----
AUGUST 20, 2021 VILLA CROATIA HALL – “WALT WISE” DUE: JULY 16, 2021

MAIL TO: Sherry Barbieri, 38147 Poplar Drive, Willoughby, OH 44094

Please reserve _____ place(s) at \$60 pp, which includes lunch and show. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LCRTA**

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please list name(s) and contact information if additional members/guests are included on this form.

CUT -----
JULY 22, 2021 VILLA CROATIA HALL – “LIGHTS OUT!” DUE: JUNE 18, 2021

MAIL TO: Sherry Barbieri, 38147 Poplar Drive, Willoughby, OH 44094

Please reserve _____ place(s) at \$65 pp, which includes dinner and show. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LCRTA**

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please list name(s) and contact information if additional members/guests are included on this form.

JUNE 29, 2021

LAKE COUNTY CAPTAINS GAME

The Lake County Captains will be taking the field once again this year and LCRTA will be in the stadium to watch them play against the South Bend Cubs. Join our group on Tuesday, June 29th at 7:00 pm for Ohio Lottery Buck Night! Dollar hot dogs, Dollar fountain sodas and Dollar domestic beer available or choose the Meal Voucher option (includes choice of hot dog, hamburger, chicken sandwich or pizza, chips and a drink) for only \$7. Other choices available on the Order Form. Download the order form from the LCRTA website, select your options and mail your check (payable to "Lake County Captains") to Sherry Niederkorn by June 13th.

VILLA CROATIA SHOWS

The Croatian Hall is now called Villa Croatia at 34900 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake. They are planning performances which include meals. The venue is operating at reduced capacity. Tables will be 6 feet apart and groups will be of 6 to 8 people. Masks are required when you are not seated.

The first show will be "**LIGHTS OUT!**" on **July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.** It is a tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. The menu is family style and includes salad, Italian sausage and peppers, chicken parmesan, cavatelli, vegetable medley, dessert, coffee or tea. Also a cash bar is available. **Cost is \$65 pp.**

"**WALT WISE**", the second performance, is on **August 20, 2021 at 12:00 noon.** Join us for Walt's amazing tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel. The family style menu includes salad, pork schnitzel, stuffed cabbage, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, dessert, coffee or tea. A cash bar is available. **Cost is \$60 pp.**

CONTACT: Sherry Barbieri at 440-946-1628 with any questions.

DECEMBER 8 – 11, 2021

NASHVILLE AGLOW

DEPOSIT DUE: ASAP

Celebrate the Christmas Season on a motorcoach tour to Nashville, TN. This 4 day, 3 night trip with Great Day! Tours begins at the Derby Dinner Theater for a Holiday Musical and a one night stay on the way to Nashville. The next two nights will be spent at Opryland Hotel where the atriums will be glowing with Holiday Lights. Highlights include admission to ICE, Opryland Hotel's Country Christmas Dinner Show, a luncheon and lively holiday show on board the General Jackson Showboat, Delta Boat Ride through Opryland's Delta Atrium, and Grand Ole Opry performance at the historic Ryman Auditorium. Six meals, accommodations, and motorcoach transportation are included. **COST: \$1,242 pp double, \$1,496 pp single. Full refund if cancelled before September 8, 2021 less any money not refunded from suppliers. \$100 deposit holds your spot. Additional payments due 9/10/21 and final payment on 10/25/21.** Rooms overlooking atriums are approximately \$80 extra pp for the two nights and should be requested and paid with the deposit. **CONTACT: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com if interested.**

THE GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE CRUISE

In response to the results of our Travel Interest Form, your Social / Travel Committee is pursuing a European cruise on The Great Rivers from Vienna to Amsterdam (for travel in October, 2023). Dates (TBA)

SEPT. 25 – OCT. 3, 2022 '**CHARMS OF THE SOUTH**' – **RIVERBOAT CRUISE**

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 20 participants registered already, so be sure to book your sailing soon, so you don't miss the boat...Literally! The journey takes place from September 25 through October 3, 2022. Ports of call include Nottoway LA, St. Francisville LA, Natchez MS, Vicksburg MS, Port of the Mississippi Delta, and Memphis TN. Visit 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 pp and \$4,099 pp 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. Deposits are accepted now 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 to make your \$500 per person deposit before cabins are gone. 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.

Visit the Social / Travel page at <https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com/socialtravel.html> to download forms and see photos of previous trips.

COME TRAVEL WITH LCRTA!!!