



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 59 No. 3

May, 2023

From the President.....

I have noticed more places encouraging people to be kind these days. I have seen signs telling of kindness awards, billboards, and there is even an app to document acts of kindness. Cleveland and Akron schools have taken the initiative to promote it among students. Rotary clubs, some faith-based communities, media outlets, police organizations, and community governments are among the groups signing on to make our area Kindland.

In my opinion we definitely need a reminder. As a group I think our efforts to donate to different charitable organizations help to make our little part of the area a kinder land. Thank you to Louise Bennet and all who donate to this endeavor. To end, I want to add a couple quotes about kindness:

“Kindness is giving hope to those who think they are all alone in this world.”

“Kindness is something anyone can give without losing anything themselves.”

“Kindness is not what you do, but who you are.”

ATTENTION, If you are attending the June 13,2023 luncheon...Everyone needs to enter the church through the GALLERY DOOR. That door is under the PORTICO off of the parking lot on Murray Avenue, on the back side of the main church. Because of other activities at the church on June 13, please enter through this door only.

LCRTA 2023 Yearbook

Bonnie Lillibridge/Charleen Langer, Editors

The 2023 LCRTA Yearbooks were handed out at the April, 11, 2023 meeting. If you were not in attendance, you should have received yours in the mail. IF YOU DID NOT receive your yearbook please let Bonnie or Charleen know and we will send you a copy. To date 144 yearbooks have been distributed. The cost to mail this book is approximately \$4.00 each.

Please check your information in the book to make sure it is accurate. If not please call or email:

Bonnie bonnie111bridge@gmail.com 440.352.0174
Char rclanger@oh.rr.com 440.897.8411

The Hits Just Keep on Comin’ The Good-The Bad-and The Ugly!! Tom Moscovic-Legislative Chair Ohio House Passes State Budget Bill (HB33)

On Tuesday, April 25, the Ohio House Finance Committee made further changes to the state budget bill, via an omnibus amendment, before sending the Substitute House Bill 33 to the full Ohio House..

After House floor deliberations on Wednesday, April 26, the Ohio House passed Substitute House Bill 33 by a vote of 77-19. OEA commends the Ohio House for their bipartisan collaboration in crafting a state budget bill that provides significant financial investment for public schools, increases the minimum teacher salary, and repeals the retention provision of the third grade reading guarantee among other items.

New district funding spreadsheets detailing the House passed version are not yet available. It is important to note that we are halfway through the state budget process, funding and policy provisions are likely to change. Attention now shifts to the Ohio Senate where budget hearings are underway.

Details of the major policy changes within the amendments made to the budget bill since last week’s legislative watch are outlined below:

- ◆ Requires by July 1, 2024, the Ohio Department of Education to develop one or more measures to demonstrate the performance of voucher students against that of students enrolled in public schools.
- ◆ Prohibits private schools participating in EdChoice Voucher program from requiring a student’s parents to disclose, as part of the school’s admission procedure, whether the student’s family income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
- ◆ Requires the Department of Education to determine penalty fees related to transportation based on the number of students affected rather than the total daily transportation payment amount.
- ◆ Appropriates \$100 million in FY2024 for the Career-Technical Construction Program. This restores the \$200 million appropriation in FY 2024, as under the executive budget proposal.



- ◆ Changes the definition of “three-cueing approach” to mean “any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, structure, syntax, and visual clues” rather than “an instructional method that encourages students to predict words based on story structure, pictures, typical word order, letter sounds and other contextual clues.”
- ◆ Qualifies special education programs operated by county board of developmental disabilities and facilities offering juvenile day treatment services for reimbursements for reduced price school meals.
- ◆ Remove from the bill a provision that required a presidential primary election to be held in May, the same as other primary elections in Ohio, rather than being held in March

Advocacy Efforts Continue to Defend the Rights of Ohio Voters

The House may vote next week on a proposed constitutional amendment that, if passed by Ohio voters, would make it more difficult to pass future amendments by requiring 60% of the vote. This ill-conceived amendment would weaken the voice of Ohio voters doing away with the basic principle of majority rule. For over 100 years Ohioans have had the right to amend the constitution to address key issues when the legislature fails to act upon them. Disturbingly, the legislature is attempting to rush the proposal to the ballot by proposing a special August election.

Four former Ohio Governors have voiced their opposition to House Joint Resolution 1 and Senate Joint Resolution 2 as well as the push for the August special election. Ted Strickland (D), John Kasich (R), Bob Taft (R) and Richard Celeste (D) all were quoted in the press in opposition. There are several ways that you can help to fight back against this undemocratic, unfair, unpopular, and unnecessary proposal. Email your state representative and urge them to oppose these proposals.

You can also call your legislator by dialing 1.800.282.0253 and ask to be connected to your state representative. Urge them to vote “No” on House Joint Resolution 1 or Senate Joint Resolution 2.

(Jamie Callendar HD57, Dan Troy HD23, Sen. Jerry Cirino)

(See LCRTA website at www.lakecountyrta.weebly.com for another article “OEA Members Testify Against Universal Voucher Bill”)



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet

Oh my, Oh my! There are so many options to give help to others when you come to the June LCRTA luncheon meeting. Please choose one or more of the way from the five outlined below.

1 The Salvation Army will be distributing school supplies to needy families in Lake County in early August. ALL standard supplies are being requested including 12pk. Colored pencils, 24 pk. Crayons, pens (blue, black, red ink), scissors (children’s pointed), loose leaf paper and notebooks (both wide ruled). Also accepted, children’s New underwear and packaged socks. Monetary donations would be a great help.

2. Also distributed at the same time will be new or gently used clothing and books for infants, toddlers, school-aged children and young adults.

3. The Salvation Army would appreciate donations of ANY non-perishable food items. Canned fruit, vegetables, soup, pasta and cereals included.

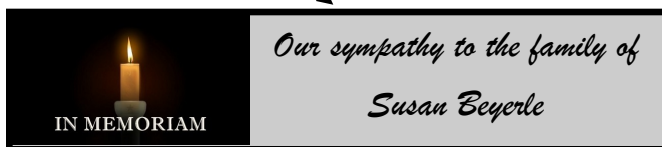
4. The Salvation Army on Pearl Street in Painesville gives clothing to those in need, including adults. If you have something gently worn you would like to donate, please pass it on.

5. LCRTA continues to collect ALUMINUM pull tabs. These are especially the ones that come from aluminum beverage cans. Using a magnet (maybe one from your refrigerator?) will determine if the tab is aluminum (it will not “stick”) Please continue to collect these throughout the summer. They are passed on to Ronald McDonald House Charities (Cleveland Clinic) and turned into money through a recycler, to help support the families.

It is possible you presently have something in the options above in your home. Please take a look around and see if you are able to find something to donate. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING...Tim Niederkorn

In addition to member donations, this year’s fundraising efforts once again include several “Dine to Donate” events. In the fall, the event at El Palanque raised \$165. The January event at Texas Roadhouse generated another \$131. We are looking forward to two additional events this year. The first is on May 17, 2023, from 11am to 7pm at Spirits of Willoughby. The second will be on June 22, 2023, from 4-8pm at Red Robin in Willoughby. You may dine in, or order carry out at both events. Both events will generate a 20% donation to the Scholarship Fund. Flyers for all our events may be found on the LCRTA website. Flyers for Red Robin will also be available at the June Luncheon.



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: June 2, 2023

\$16.00 per person

Please reserve ____ (s) for the Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Lunch: (Choose 1) _____ Chicken Salad Wrap
_____ Grilled Vegetable Wrap

Both served with Pasta Salad, Cookies, coffee and water.

Scholarship Committee News

The LCRTA Scholarship committee would like to announce the recipients of this year's LCRTA Scholarship. Selected from eight candidates by the committee on April 25 and 26, they are:

Kaitlyn Newsome-Kaitlyn will be graduating from Perry High School and will be attending Bowling Green State University. She would like to teach Kindergarten.

Douglas Slovenkay-Douglas will be graduating from Mentor High School and will be attending the College of Wooster. He would like to teach high school English.

Brooke Snyder-Brooke will be graduating from Eastlake North High School and will be attending Bowling Green State University. She would like to teach middle school and high school English.

Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. You can meet all three candidates at the June Luncheon where they will be introduced and recognized.

Serving on this year's Scholarship Committee are: Tim Niederkorn (Chair), Connie Irvin, Bev Lee, Cathy Trepal, Jane Pastor, Lynda Krstolic and Sherry Niederkorn. The committee is always open to new members. If you'd like to serve next year, please contact Tim at tim.niederkorn@gmail.com.

Information & Protective Services...Janene Ishee Contact Social Security

The most convenient way to contact Social Security, on any device, is to visit www.ssa.gov. There are several things you can do on line: apply for benefits, get useful information, find publications, and get answers to frequently asked questions.

If you are dealing with an existing problem, you can call Social Security for help on my Social Security account at 1.800.772.1213 (TTY for deaf or hard of hearing 1.800.352.0778). After you hear "Briefly tell me why you are calling" please say "Help Desk" for help with a my Social Security account. This will allow you to contact a live agent.

You may have a my Social Security account that you have previously set up. The agent indicated that this was a very good thing because no one could ever use a person's SS# to set up another my Social Security account if one was already established.

On a personal note: Because I was dealing with a recent exposure to the dark web, I was told to FREEZE my credit accounts to prevent theft of info from these accounts and I also added an Initial Security Alert. The alert lasts one year and alerts credit grantors to verify your identity in case someone is using your information without your consent. As an additional precaution, they also removed my name and address from prescreened offer mailing lists for six months.

Jean P. Lentz Memorial Active Teacher Grant

The Jean P. Lentz Memorial Active Teacher Grant of \$300.00 each was awarded to four teachers from the Willoughby Eastlake School System in February of 2023.

Ashley Tagle.....Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
Mallory Salomon....Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
Shannon Davis.....Royalview Elementary School
Jamie McMahan.....Longfellow Elementary School

Meet these teachers at the June 13th Luncheon.

DINE-TO-DONATE Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Spirits of Willoughby
3872 Erie Street, Willoughby
11:00am to 7:00pm

20% donated to LCRTA Scholarship Fund
Good for Dine-in and To-Go orders



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

LCRTA
 9399 Ridgeside Drive
 Mentor, Ohio 44060

<https://lakecountyrta.weebly.com>



STATE TEACHERS
 RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 OF OHIO

Volunteer Hours Sheet for the months of
 April –May, 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-June 13, 2023



**MARK YOUR
 CALENDAR**

- May 17, 2023.....Spirits of Willoughby Dine to Donate
- May 30, 2023.....Lake County Captain Baseball Game
 See Social/Travel Page for information
- June 9-11, 2023...Mackinac Island and Lilac Festival
- June 29,2023.....Rabbit Run Theater-"Anything Goes"
- September 14, 2023....Ghost Walk of Willoughby

A Request from University Hospitals-Volunteer Services

Are you interested in making a difference in people's lives, making friends or giving back to the community?

University Hospitals Lake West in Willoughby and TriPoint Medical Center in Concord is seeking volunteers for the front desk, gift shop and other areas. You must be 16 years old or older. For more information call-TriPoint Medical Center, Concord-440.354.1665 or Lake West Medical Center in Willoughby, 440.953.6049.

Len Zito, Volunteer Services Department, 440.354.1665



2023 - 2024 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

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
October 10-19, 2024 – Hawaiian Cruise Vacation

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!!

(Sometimes letters get lost in the mail.)

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. Tuesday is Taco Night (\$2 Tacos, \$2 Taquitos, Margaritas and Cutwater will be on the menu). 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. Hopefully the lilacs are still in bloom. During our visit to the Grand Hotel, no sweats or cutoffs are permitted. 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 not included). Start the evening with dinner at Jennifer Williams' house for an optional dinner of chicken, multiple salads, beverage and dessert at no charge. (Only a few spots left for dinner.) Travel a few minutes down the road to "The Barn" for a musical, with music & lyrics by Cole Porter or meet us there for 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 and it includes a special treat at intermission, just for our group. This is one of the perks of "traveling with LCRTA!" (Only 5 tickets left for the show.) Checks to "LCRTA" are due to Sherry Niederkorn ASAP, but before Monday, June 1st. Download the Order Form from the LCRTA website to register. Contact Sherry Niederkorn at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com for availability.

Thursday, September 14, 2023 - Ghost Walk of Willoughby (One day trip)

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. Hear ghostly tales and frightening legends on the Thursday evening following the luncheon meeting! This guided, lantern-lit tour follows 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 \$18 Adults, \$9 Kids (6 to 12 yrs), free for 5 yrs and younger. Meet at 7:30 PM at 36 Public Square in downtown Willoughby. Reservations due by September 7, 2023. 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 thru 21 with optional extensions 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. A pre-trip meeting for all registered travelers will be held on September 20th to go over documents for the trip. The location and time to be announced. 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). Deadline for any new reservation is Sept. 7, 2023. Final payment is due Oct. 15, 2023. 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.

October 10 thru 19, 2024 - Visit to Hawaii with cruise (11-day trip)

Join us as we discover the beauty, culture and history of the Hawaiian Islands on this Hawaiian Cruise Tour with Nowak Tours. Spend two nights on Waikiki Beach then board Norwegian Cruise Line's The Pride of America. Relax on board your floating resort as you sail from island to island while the ship's attentive staff is available to ensure that your journey is an enjoyable one. Add the annual migration of the North American Humpback whales from the cold waters of Alaska to the warm waters of Hawaii and you have truly experienced PARADISE. Trip includes roundtrip airfare to Honolulu, all airport transfers, 2-night lodging on Waikiki Beach, 7-night cruise on the Pride of America in selected cabin type, 6 private shore excursions, all port charges, taxes & fees, all onboard meals with 24-hour room service on the Pride of America, and baggage handling. All gratuities for baggage handling, drivers, and local guides are also included. A flier with pricing is coming soon. Contact Sherry Niederkorn with questions at 440-477-1198 or sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com.

Travel Interest Form – Coming soon!

At our June 13th luncheon, members will receive a Travel Interest Form from the Social/Travel committee. We ask that you complete the form by indicating which trips sound interesting to you and listing other possibilities of destinations that you would like to make on the back. We are looking for one or two members to join the Social/Travel Committee to help us plan our future trips. If you love to travel and are interested, please contact one of us, or email us at oh.lcrtasoctrav@gmail.com.

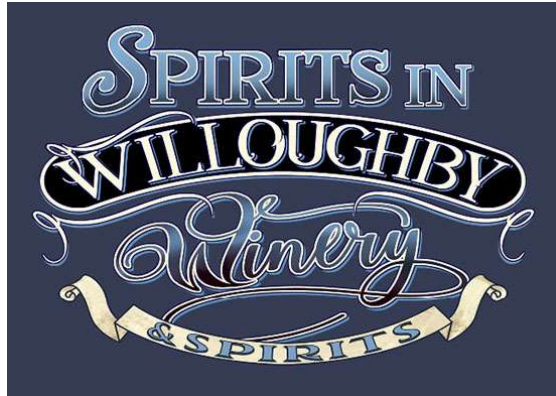
SPIRITS

in Willoughby

**COMMUNITY
FUNDRAISER**

**Lake County Retired Teachers
Association Scholarship Fund**

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



* SPIRITS will donate 20% of your check when you present this flyer during checkout at this location:
**3872 Erie Street, Willoughby, OH 44094
440-525-5699**

** Good on "to go" or "dine in" orders.*

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