



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

Volume 57 No. 5

October, 2021

From the President.....

I don't know about you, but my favorite time of the year has arrived: FALL! What's not to like about this season—the leaves changing colors, the sight of various types of pumpkins in all shapes and sizes, and the smells and tastes of those apple pies and other delectable goodies.

Yes, with Fall, comes Winter approaching, but I am thankful for all the good Fall brings us.

As members, let's continue to fall into the practice of coming to the in person meeting on November 9. Please complete the reservation form (page 3 of this newsletter) for fellowship, fine food, and thanks to David Morse, an informative program. As we listen to Randy Overbeck, author of Things that Go Bump in the Night, explain his writings, we may wish to become authors as well. (And then again, maybe not) His book will be on sale for you to purchase.

To give you a “heads up,” during the business meeting, you will be voting on an addendum to the Constitution as recommended by the Board. It reads as follows:

A member will be considered as INACTIVE for three(3) years and will receive all LCRTA communications during that period of time. After three(3) years, the member will be dropped from the Inactive list, unless a request is made by the Inactive member or family member to remain on the list for another year, the deadline being December 31. This will begin in 2022.

I am concluding with this thought. During my 35 years of teaching, I introduced my students to many authors, and of course, dear Dr. Suess was always on the list. That fine author once said: “To the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world.” Just something to remember.

The Ohio Legislature Strikes Again New Meaning to DRACONIAN

by Tom Moscovic-Legislative Chair
Ohio HB322 and Ohio HB327

Ohio House Bills 322 and 327 have been introduced, which would restrict the teaching of certain concepts and topics in K-16 classrooms. HB322 primarily targets public schools and state agencies, but the Ohio Department of Higher Education would be included under the definition of state agency. This bill prohibits public entities from requiring discussion of current events and prohibits the teaching of a list of topics dealing with race, sex, slavery, and bias. It also targets history and civic courses, discouraging the discussion of current events, controversial issues, and activities that involve social or policy advocacy. Moreover, the legislation specifies that teachers cannot be required to teach anything that goes against their “sincerely held religious or philosophical convictions.”

HB327 is slightly different and more punitive than HB322. The bill prohibits public schools, state agencies, colleges, and universities from offering teaching, instruction, or training on “divisive concepts” or accepting private funding to promote such concepts. Violations of the bill would result in the withholding of funding to school districts or State Share of Instruction to colleges and universities. The bill has a list of concepts related to race, sex, nationality, color and ethnicity that it defines as divisive and therefore prohibited. It does say that divisive or controversial concepts can be taught if done so objectively and impartially, but who gets to determine what is objective or impartial is unclear.

The Ohio Council for the Social Studies (OCSS) firmly opposes both HB322 and HB327 for the following reasons:

These bills are contrary to the purpose of social studies education. Passage of these bills would—whether out of real or perceived threat—stifle classroom discussions, impair critical thinking, dampen creativity, and impose restrictions on the very freedoms needed to obtain civic competency. The value of learning about issues and relevant topics from multiple perspectives would be severely compromised and eliminated, having a disproportionate and undue impact on marginalized groups.

HB322 and HB327 would impose penalties on teaching standards required by the state

LCRTA Luncheon Meeting November 9, 2021
St. John Vianney Social Hall
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor
11:00 Social Hour
Speaker... Author Randy Overbeck
“Things That Go Bump in the Night”



Legislative continued...

on teaching standards required by state of Ohio and the College Board. Passage of these bills will hinder the ability of students to earn Advanced Placement (AP) credits and access college entrance.

These bills alternatively discourage (322) the discussion of anything “controversial” and outright prohibit “divisive” topics (327) or those that might cause one to “feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of and individuals race or sex” (322) or that one by virtue of their nationality “bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same nationality.” (327) These limitations and prohibitions would in turn limit societal understanding to few viewpoints.

HB322, HB327 would not allow class credit for students who advocate for or against a particular public policy. Student engagement would diminish as student agency is eliminated.

A source of pride in Ohio—autonomous local board decision making—would be severely diminished. These bills would handcuff college and university –based Ohio teacher preparations programs in their responsibility to meet accreditation standards. These bills contradict and prevent the execution of existing educational policies and norms.

HB322 and HB327 violate democratic virtues classroom educators are expected to teach. They are hostile to a student’s legitimate social studies education.

SUMMARY-HB322

- ◆ With respect to a course in history, civics, or a similar subject areas, prohibits public schools and state agencies from(1) requiring the discussion of current events,(2) requiring or awarding course credit for lobbying or other work surrounding social or public policy advocacy, and (3) accepting private funding to develop curriculum, purchase course materials or provide training.
- ◆ Prohibits a state agency or public school from teaching any administrator, teacher, staff member, or employee to adopt or believe in any of the specified concepts.
- ◆ Prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting any model curriculum regarding specified concepts.
- ◆ Prohibits any teacher or administrator or any employee of a public school or state agency from approving, making use of, or carrying out standards, curricula, lesson plans, textbooks, instructional materials, or instructional practices that serve to inculcate specified concepts.

SUMMARY—HB327

- ◆ Prohibits school districts, community schools, STEM schools, state agencies, and state institutions of higher education from teaching “divisive concepts” or accepting private funding to further promotion of “divisive concepts.”
- ◆ Requires the Department of Education to withhold funding from a school district of school that violates the bill’s provisions until such time as the district or school complies.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet



The Lake Humane Society (LHS) can be thought of as Let’s Help Some Animals. For our November luncheon meeting, you are asked to consider bringing one or more items to be donated.

For Dogs & Puppies:

Purina One Smartblend dry food
Dog treats-made in the USA
Kong and Nylabone toys-any size
Greenies Pill Pockets

For Small Animals:

Timothy Hay
Small animal toys
and treats for
rabbits, hamsters etc.

For Cats & Kittens:

Lysine powder supplement
Purina One Indoor dry food
Purina Friskies canned and Pate food
Cat nip, toys and USA made treats

For Shelter Operation:

Bleach, laundry soap, Clorox wipes, garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper, liquid hand soap, lint rollers, postage stamps, copy paper, Sharpie markers, monetary gifts, gift cards for gas and pet supply stores

LHS is also looking for platform dollies to move heavy objects and foldable pens. Do you have one in your basement you would like to remove? More information on the needs at <http://www.lakehumane.org>. Get involved then Make a Donation. Please note: Any brand of dog or cat food will be used for Auggie’s Pet Food Pantry which is open three times a month. This is the way LHS helps residents of Lake County who need help feeding their pets.

As a final word, the humane society is a place for volunteering too, both for adults and children (when accompanied by an adult). Maybe taking a dog for a walk would be fun! LHS is looking for foster homes too, or homes to host a sleepover night for a dog. If interested in any volunteer activity, please call (440) 951-6122.

HB327 summery continued

- ◆ Requires the administrative head of each state agency to review its grant and training programs as well as ensure and encourage compliance with the bill’s provisions by its employees.
- ◆ Requires the Department of Administrative Services to adopt a policy that complies with the bill’s provisions and establish rules for the implementation and enforcement of that policy.

LCRTA Luncheon Reservation

St. John Vianney Social Hall

DUE OCTOBER 29, 2021

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

Susan McCarter

9720 Johnnycake Ridge Road

Mentor, Ohio 44060

440.639.1141

Make all checks payable to LCRTA

\$21.50 per person

Please reserve ____ (s) for the Tuesday, November 9, 2021, LCRTA luncheon

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Please list names of all attending on this line

Amount enclosed: _____

Lunch: (Choose 1) _____ Chicken Marsala _____ Pasta Primavera

Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Pumpkin Pie

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

Social time 11:00AM

Informative & Protective Services

By Terri Herbert

Ohio Department of Health: Stay Connected

Due to the COVID-19 emergency, older adults are at a heightened risk of contracting this disease and having more serious complications. We know that the issues of isolation and loneliness may increase as family members assume their normal routines. Isolation can have serious emotional impacts on any of us, but especially on older adults. During a time when physical distancing has become necessary, many older Ohioans are finding it harder than ever to feel connected to the world and people around them.

This is why the Ohio Department of Aging created the Staying Connected Check-in Service. The Staying Connected service provides a FREE, daily check-in by phone for Ohioans age 60 and older. This service provides comfort and can connect you with aging network information and support. It is easy to get started. Explore the resources below to learn more.

Check-in calls will be made from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. You choose the time that suits you. You can place a hold on these calls at any time.

Who can participate?

1. Ohio residents 60 years of age or older who:
 1. Have a valid phone number (mobile or land line)
 2. Provide an alternate contact (preferred-not required)

Informative & Protective Services.... Continued

How it Works:

1. Three attempts will be made to contact you. When you respond you have three options:
 1. Confirm you are OK
 2. Transfer to learn more about aging services in your area
 3. Connect for a friendly chat
2. If you do not answer after three attempts:
 1. An attempt will be made to reach your alternate contact, if one was provided.
 2. A live call will be placed to you and your alternate, if one was provided
 3. Notification to local non-emergency service (e.g. sheriff's office) if live call failed to connect.**

**** This is not an emergency service. If emergency, call 9-1-1.**

Signing up is quick and easy. The service is for Ohio residents age 60 and older.

Sign up online or call 1.833.ODA-CHAT (1.833.632.2428)

To sign up you will need the following information:

- ◆ Your name, year of birth, street address, phone number, and email (if available)
- ◆ The name of an alternate contact, relationship to you and their phone number
- ◆ Your preferred one-hour contact window between 7a.m. and 6p.m.

****Participant must be prepared to receive and respond to a phone connection test as part of the registration process.****



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 months of
September— October, 2021

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-Nov. 9
LCRTA

MEMBERSHIP DUES COLLECTION FOR 2022
WILL BEGIN NOVEMBER 1, 2021 THROUGH
DECEMBER 15, 2021.

WATCH FOR YOUR POSTCARD IN THE MAIL

Dues may be paid at the November 9th meeting.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 9, 2021 Membership Meeting/Luncheon
St. John Vianney Social Hall
7575 Bellflower Road, Mentor
Reservation Required See pg. 3
Speaker- Author - Randy Overbeck

December 5, 2021 "Miracle on 34th Street" Fine Arts

December 8-11 Nashville Aglow-Opryland Hotel
TOUR STILL OPEN

Are you moving—have a new phone number—
or a new email address. PLEASE let us know.
Call: 440-255-0764 or Email sawitke@oh.rr.com

2021 – 2023 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 5, 2021 - “MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET” – FINE ARTS
DECEMBER 8-11, 2021 – NASHVILLE AGLOW – OPRYLAND HOTEL
APRIL 10, 2022 – TEN BELOW: THE ONE ACT FESTIVAL – FINE ARTS
SEPTEMBER 25 - OCTOBER 3, 2022 – MISSISSIPPI RIVERBOAT CRUISE
FALL 2023 – GREAT RIVERS OF EUROPE (GCT)

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

DECEMBER 8 - 11, 2021

NASHVILLE AGLOW

TOUR STILL OPEN!!

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: \$1,192 pp double, \$1,433.90 single. Final payment is due on 10/25/21 and should be sent to Great Day! Tours, 375 Treworth Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44147. New Participants – Please contact Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com for availability.**

VILLA CROATIA SHOWS

The Croatian Hall is now called Villa Croatia at 34900 Lakeshore Blvd., Eastlake. They are planning performances which include meals. The LCRTA website contains information about RSM Events future shows at Villa Croatia. We will not be sponsoring these but you may contact RSM Events directly.

FUTURE PLANS

The Social/Travel Committee is also planning trips to Rabbit Run –Summer 2022, Fine Arts – April 10, 2022, and Beck Center-July 2022. Further information will be on the LCRTA Website and future newsletters!!!

CUT -----
DECEMBER 8 – 11, 2021 **NASHVILLE AGLOW – OPRYLAND HOTEL** **New Participants Only!**
Please Print

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ CELL PHONE _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

SINGLE/ TRAVEL COMPANION _____
ENCLOSED IS MY FULL PAYMENT OF \$ _____ FOR _____ PERSON(S). MAKE CHECK payable to **GREAT DAY! TOURS** and MAIL TO: Sarah Reinhard, 8677 Harvest Home, Mentor, OH 44060.

CUT -----
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021 **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** **DUE: Nov 5, 2021**
MAIL TO: **Sherry Niederkorn, 6988 Weatherby Dr., Mentor, OH 44060.** Make check payable to “LCRTA.”
Reserve _____ tickets for (show) _____ @ **\$18 per person (based on group of 10).**
NAME _____ PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____ CHECK NUMBER _____



FINE ARTS PRODUCTIONS 2021



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

DUE: Nov. 5, 2021

A Holiday Classic! From the writer of the musical theatre classic, *The Music Man!* and based on the movie of the same name, *Miracle on 34th Street The Musical*, features a book and score by none other than Meredith Willson. Filled with humor, spectacle, and such beloved songs as “Pinecones and Hollyberries,” “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas,” and “My State, My Kansas,” this joyous, heartwarming musical is pure family entertainment. *Rated G*

MISSISSIPPI 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 almost gone. We have over 30 participants registered already. 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/>

Contact Mike Benz from Professional Travel in Cleveland at 440-804-6933 or mbenz@protravel.com. 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.

EUROPEAN RIVERBOAT CRUISE for 2023:

The *Great Rivers of Europe* is Grand Circle Cruise Line’s flagship river cruise. This adventure takes you from Amsterdam to Vienna (or vice versa) aboard a privately owned riverboat that offers half picture, full picture, and balcony cabins. Sail 3 rivers – the Rhine, Main, and Danube. Complimentary beer and wine, all meals included. This particular itinerary includes:

- 41 meals: 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners.
- 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** – so they get first pick. They offer a “Pending Reservation” deposit of \$500 to all travelers, and it is fully refundable. They will honor travelers by date of deposit – as singles are limited. As mentioned, if you change your mind for any reasons, this deposit is refundable – no questions asked.

Read more about the trip here! The Great Rivers of Europe 2022: www.gct.com/sge22

Here’s how you can pre-register for this tour with our group before it is open for public sale:

1. Call GCT Reservations: 800-221-2610
2. Mention Group Code: 3472
3. Advise the Travel Counselor that you want to pre-register for The Great Rivers in October 2023 with the Lake County Retired Teachers Association group.
4. The deposit to pre-register for this tour is \$500 per person. This deposit is 100% fully refundable for any reason until you confirm your reservation after the official dates and prices are released.

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