



THE BELLRINGER

Newsletter of the Lake County Retired Teachers Association

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October, 2020

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE.....

By the time of our next general meeting, the United States Presidential election will be completed. It may or may not be decided yet, but the voting will be over.

One down!!

Because of the uncertainty of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Board has decided to use the Zoom technology for the foreseeable future. This has proved to be fruitful to many of our members. Using your computer tablet or phone, you can be a part of any of our meetings. Joining a meeting does require a bit of a culture change to the technology used but most folks seem to be able to pick up the basics quickly. With all things new, there is a familiarization process, and Sherry Niederkorn has been having regular practice sessions to allow new users to learn how to log in on their computer or tablet and use the 'buttons' on the screens. Do a little exploring on [Zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com) and please, contact sherry.niederkorn23@gmail.com for assistance before the meeting.

Members who are without a computer or tablet, but have a phone, can still join in the meeting. The process to do this is a bit different from the process described above, but it still works well for those who use it.

Here is a link to a video that is helpful to those who will be participating in their first ZOOM meeting. It is only 8:16 minutes long and is also a great refresher course for those who are interested.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

Our ultimate goal is to be able to again have in-person meetings, but until we are assured by the health authorities, and we, as individuals, feel confident about mingling again, we will rely on ZOOM and our newsletter as the main means of communication with members. As the future becomes clearer, we will consider other alternatives.

Meanwhile, be smart and stay safe.

Terri and Dave

VOTE!!!! Election 2020 Voter Information

Tom Moscovic-Legislative Chair

2020 Presidential Election Day is TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3. POLLS OPEN FROM 6:30AM to 7:30PM

OHIO ALLOWS EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING AT THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL. Both begin on October 6th. The Lake County Board of Elections website at lakeelections.com has information on everything you need to know about voting in the upcoming elections. You can call them at 440-350-2700. Sample ballots by precinct are available at the Board of Elections website.

We do not know how the COVID pandemic will affect this year's general election, but voters are encouraged to consider casting their votes by mail or during in-person voting whenever possible.

ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL: Receiving your ballot in the mail is a two-step process:

1. Complete an application for the absentee ballot. The Ohio Secretary of State will mail this application to all registered voters the week of September 7. You can also download the application form anytime at lakeelections.com, or call the Board of Elections to have one mailed to you.
2. Return the application to the Board of Elections, by mail or in the drop box outside of the building. This form cannot be submitted online or by email. Your application will be processed by checking your current voter registration information. Ballots will be mailed when early voting starts October 6th. You can track your ballot on lakeelections.com.

EARLY IN PERSON VOTING HOURS: All early voting takes place at the Board of Elections office in the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St. Painesville.

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| OCT. 6-9: 8 AM-5 PM | OCT. 26-30: 8 AM-7 PM |
| OCT. 12-16: 8 AM-5 PM | OCT. 31: 8 AM-4 PM |
| OCT. 19-23: 8 AM-5 PM | NOV. 1: 1 PM-5 PM |
| OCT. 24: 8 AM-4 PM | NOV. 2: 8 AM-2 PM |
| OCT. 25: 1 PM-5 PM | |



Ohio counties can set up multiple drop off sites, Secretary of State Frank LaRose says (October 6th)
COLUMBUS, OHIO--Ohio counties will be allowed to set up multiple sites where voters can drop off completed absentee ballots when early voting begins Tuesday, Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose said Monday.

LaRose also said counties can set up an additional drop box as long as the boxes are located at the county board of elections office. LaRose's announcement came shortly before a 12 PM deadline set by a federal judge overseeing a federal lawsuit over ballot drop boxes. U.S. District Judge Dan Polster had given LaRose until then to explain why he wouldn't permit Cuyahoga County elections officials to move forward with a plan to set up staffed ballot drop-off locations at six libraries throughout the county.

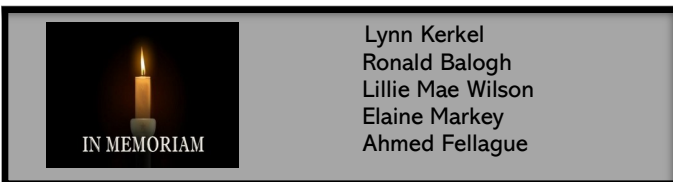
County elections officials had approved the plan as an attempt to sidestep a limit on drop boxes set by LaRose, a Republican, who is Ohio's top elections official. LaRose ordered county election officials on August 11 to set up one ballot drop box, but no more. That prompted voting-rights activists and the Ohio Democratic Party to sue in state and federal court, seeking to force LaRose to allow more than one box.

Early voting begins on October 6th, with the first wave of mailed ballots going out to more than 2 million voters who requested them. In-person, early voting at county boards of election also will begin Tuesday. There has been a volley of filings and court rulings in recent days over ballot drop boxes in Ohio, both in federal and state courts.

The Ohio Republican Party, the Republican National Committee and President Donald Trump's campaign meanwhile have taken LaRose's side, arguing that drop boxes would increase the risk of fraud.

A three-judge panel of the Ohio Appeals court ruled that under state law, it is up to LaRose to decide whether to allow counties to offer more than one ballot drop box. But they also overturned a lower court's ruling that would have force LaRose to allow them.

"Tomorrow, absentee ballots will begin being mailed out to over 2 million Ohioans who requested them and voting starts in 88 early voting locations across the state in what will be the most accessible election in state history," LaRose said in a written statement. "Despite predictable partisan politics that attempt to create phony crises, we have kept our eye on the ball and Ohio's election officials are ready to administer a safe, secure, and accurate election."



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

By Louise Bennet



Have you recently purchased a new television, microwave, or any item that was packed in that heavy-duty Styrofoam inside the box? That Styrofoam does its job of keeping the item safe from dents, breakage, and whatever else might go wrong. BUT it is sometimes messy, can be bulky, and serves no future function.

Breaking from the traditional message of this column, I am listing two different ways we can individually be good contributors to our community. Thus, one way is to rid yourself of any and all of this Styrofoam; (Nova does not want food containers or egg cartons). It can be recycled by taking it to Nova Chemicals, 789 Hardy Road, Painesville Twp. Of course, there is a catch. There is a bin in the parking lot in which to place the Styrofoam, HOWEVER the bin is not in place at this time, presumably due to COVID. A phone call to (440) 352-3381 could garner the status of Nova, the bin and any collection dates.

The second suggestion pertains to an agency here in Lake County that many are not aware of. It is Suit Yourself which accepts professional clothing and accessories for women who are achieving "independence during work/life transitions." It is located at 47 W. Walnut in Painesville, and this organization also has a location in Ashtabula. Donations are accepted the first Saturday morning of each month HOWEVER, again, acceptance of donations is on hold at this time. On the other hand, the next time you are cleaning out your closet and/or drawers, if you come across career type pieces, putting them aside for Suit Yourself is an option. There is a website: suityourselfohio.org which provides further details.

Information and Protective Services

By Terri Herbert

Unusual Symptoms of COVID-19 You Need To Know About

Adapted from Rachel Nania, AARP

We all know the common warning signs of COVID-19, such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. In recent months doctors have documented a handful of unexpected symptoms. Experts around the world have come to realize the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is capable of causing more than a respiratory illness; it can launch a full body attack.

Here are some uncommon signs of COVID-19 that fall outside the hallmark symptoms.

COVID toes: Red and/or purple-colored toes that swell, burn and itch. The good news is that this will go away and not cause permanent damage. The majority of people with



MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN

Karen Sawitke

YES! It is that time again. Your membership is important even during this pandemic time when we can not get together to enjoy the fellowship and lunch.

In order to keep everyone safe, we have gone to ZOOM meetings (next one November 10, 2020) to conduct business and listen to a speaker. Hopefully, we will be back to the luncheons in 2021.

Until then, a reminder that Membership is due by December 15, 2020, if you want to be included in the 2021 directory. You should have received the reminder card in the mail by the time you read this. The Membership drive begins on November 1, 2020 and goes until December 15, 2020.

Please send your Membership checks to:
Karen Sawitke, 9399 Ridgeside Drive,
Mentor, Ohio 44060

Yearly dues:

- Regular Member..ORTA & LCRTA (RORL)...\$40.00
- Life Member ORTA,Regular LCRTA (LORL)..\$10.00
- Regular Member ORTA,Life LCRTA (ROLL)..\$30.00
- Associate Member LCRTA.....\$10.00
- Life ORTA, Life LCRTA.....No dues due-

Consider a Donation to the Scholarship or Grant Fund.

Consider adding a donation to your check for the Scholarship Fund and/or the Jean P. Lentz Active Teacher Grant Program. This donation may be included with your dues in a single check.

We thank you in advance for your loyalty and donation.

Fun Facts from STRS-Did You Know?

- ◆ 208 recipients age 100 or older—181 females, 28 males—up from 198 last year.
- ◆ 143 recipients age 99 - up from 125
- ◆ The oldest recipient is 108 (born in 1912) Service benefit began in 1978. STRS Ohio has two retirees age 108.
- ◆ The longest paid recipient is a survivor who began receiving benefits September 1954 at age 21 at \$50/mo. which has increased to \$337/mo. She has been receiving a benefit for 66 years as of Sept. 2020.
- ◆ The longest paid service retiree is 106 years ➡



Name _____ Phone # _____

Volunteer Hours September-October: _____ Please mail to: Louise Bennet, 7995 Burgundy Court

Caregiver Hours: September-October: _____ Painesville, Ohio 44077



Unusual symptoms continued....

with this manifestation don't experience other symptoms or need hospitalization. Many people will develop this condition well after infection. A high-potency topical steroid may help so consult your doctor.

Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and severe appetite loss:

These symptoms can come on even in the absence of the more typical and recognized markers of coronavirus infection, such as fever and cough. If you or a loved one has come down with these symptoms and are diagnosed with coronavirus, confine yourself to one room and one bathroom if possible. Disinfect bathroom surfaces often. Don't share toilet paper rolls and always flush with the lid close

Loss of taste or smell:

Doctors now believe that this may be one of the best indicators of coronavirus. If you have these symptoms report them to your doctor or ER personnel, even if they don't ask.

Neurological effects complicate diagnoses in older victims:

Aside from loss of taste and smell (which usually include dizziness, headache and confusion. In older adults these symptoms can be overlooked or dismissed as indicators of dementia or a stroke.

Blood clots:

This may be as a side effect in as many as 30% of cases. If you have clotting issues the best thing you can do is *take your blood thinner medication as prescribed!*

Hearing loss:

Hearing loss of tinnitus (ringing in the ears) is being investigated as part of middle ear issues. These symptoms may persist even after other symptoms subside. But bear in mind, people often complain of worsened hearing, even if their hearing status has not changed. The wearing of masks muffles voices and does not allow for lip reading. Many of us depend on lip-reading without being fully aware.

While I **know** we are all sick of this disease, hearing about it and coping with it, I felt that this was some important information to share. Hope that it helps you or a loved one. **Stay safe and healthy my friends.**

old and has received a benefit for 51 years. She retired in July 1969 at age 56 with 35 years of service. Her original benefit was \$410/mo. and is now \$2,259/mo.

- ◆ Two members retired this year with more than 50 years of service. The member with the most years of service credit had 52 years. Began teaching in 1968 at \$11,000 /year and finished at just over \$150,000.



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

LCRTA
9399 Ridgeside Drive
Mentor, Ohio 44060



**STATE TEACHERS
RETIREMENT SYSTEM
OF OHIO**



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please Note: All Information, Deadlines, and Events are at the mercy of COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Check the website for the most up to date information. Plans will continue until something is cancelled.

DECEMBER 5-9, 2020.....BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES AT CHRISTMAS

MAY 6-8, **2021**.....HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL WITH SHOWS (Rescheduled from 2020)

OCTOBER 8-13, **2021**.....ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA (Rescheduled from 2020)

2020 - 2021 SOCIAL/TRAVEL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 5 - 9, 2020 - BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES
MAY 6 – 8, 2021 – HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL WITH SHOWS
OCTOBER 8 - 13, 2021 - ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA

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, Virginia Keller, Kathleen Kling, Lynn Miller, Sherry Niederkorn, Sarah Reinhard

ALL INFORMATION, DEADLINES, AND EVENTS are at the mercy of COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Be sure to check the website for the most current information. We will proceed with plans until something is cancelled.

DECEMBER 5 - 9, 2020 BILTMORE & THE SMOKIES AT CHRISTMAS

Celebrate the Christmas Season on a motorcoach tour to the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, NC and Pigeon Forge, TN. This is a 5 day, 4 night trip with Great Day! Tours. Several reservations for this tour have been cancelled so if you are interested in joining us please **contact: Sarah Reinhard at 440-567-9515 or swreinhard4@yahoo.com for availability and questions.**

MAY 6 – 8, 2021 HOLLAND TULIP FESTIVAL WITH SHOWS (RESCHEDULED from 2020)

Join us on a 3 day, 2 night trip with Great Day! Tours. This trip includes a luncheon show, Windmill Island, Dutch Village, a Headliner Show, tour of Holland, MI, and reserved seats for the parade. Motorcoach transportation, five meals, and accommodations included. **COST: \$634.00 pp. double, \$774.00 pp. single. If reservation is made and paid in full by October 30, 2020, Great Day! Tours will give a 5% discount. Contact Great Day! Tours at 440-526-5350 to make your reservation. Please contact Kathy Kling at 440-487-3806 after your seat has been reserved.**

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. There is a **no risk deposit until 12/31/20**. Premier will waive the cancellation fees until the **final payment date**. 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 is due April 8, 2021** unless you want a **no risk deposit (due 12/31/20)**. The **final payment date is 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.**

Special thanks to all who responded to the Social/Travel Interest Form. The committee has tabulated the results and will use these for future planning. The results are given on the back of this page. Hopefully, more venues will be open in 2021. Please check the Bellringer and website for upcoming events.

TRAVEL INTEREST FORM RESULTS 10-1-2020

- # ONE DAY TRIPS:
- 13 Fine Arts Series
- 11 Cleveland Day Trip
- 9 Lakehouse Restaurant/ Beck Theater
- 9 Rabbit Run/ Optional Dinner
- 9 Severance Hall at Christmas
- 8 Wooster/ OLO

- # 3 TO 5 DAY TRIPS:
- 10 Holland, MI Tulip Festival
- 6 Shaw Festival
- 4 Opryland Hotel at Christmas

- # LONGER TRIPS:
- 14 Mississippi River Boat Trip
- 11 Canadian Rockies by Train
- 11 European River Boat Cruise
- 6 Bermuda
- 6 Hawaii
- 6 Machu Picchu
- 5 Galapagos
- 5 New England
- 3 Scandinavian Countries

**COME TRAVEL
WITH LCRTA**



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