

**LCRTA GENERAL MEETING
THE KIRTLANDER
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

WELCOME: President Cathy Szuter welcomed members to the meeting. Chaplain Greta Pate led The Pledge of Allegiance and shared the meditation, which expressed the importance of "One Word".

PROGRAM: Connie Irvin introduced the guest speaker, Rebecca McFarland. Rebecca gave a very interesting talk and showed slides concerning the life and times of Eliot Ness.

LUNCHEON: The Kirtlander served chicken piccata or stuffed portabella mushroom with salad, rolls, long grain rice, green beans and cheesecake.

BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pat Humphrey reported a total of all monies as of November 14, 2023 to be \$10,480.08 which included \$465.39 in Scholarship monies. The report will be filed for audit. Pat also presented the proposed budget for 2024. Louise Bennet made a motion to accept the budget and Tim Niederkorn seconded the motion. Members agreed to accept the budget. Thank you to Pat, Gail Allcock, Debbie Deal, Tim Niederkorn, Cathy Szuter, and Barb Temple for serving on the committee.

Social/Travel Report: Lynn Miller reported a total of all monies as of November 14, 2023 to be \$3,949.92. The report will be filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program: Connie Irvin reported that a member of the Mentor-on-the-Lake Police Department will discuss steps to protect oneself from fraud. Thank you to Connie for the lovely centerpieces. Connie invited members to take the pumpkins and candy home.

Meeting: Mary Sleeman stated that reservations for the February meeting will be due in by February 2, 2024.

Community Participation: Louise Bennet thanked members for the many donations and reminded people to turn in volunteer hours.

Social/Travel: Sherry Barbieri reported on the following events:

- Thursday, November 16th – Information meeting at Mentor Public Library at 1:30. This will include information on the trip to Hawaii and new upcoming trips that are being worked on. Participants are also welcome to offer places to visit.
- The trip to Cape May was cancelled due to not enough participants.
- February 25, 2024 – "Cats" presented at the Willoughby Fine Arts. Kathy Kling is the contact. The price is \$21.00 based on 10 participants.
- October 10-19(20), 2024 – Hawaii. A \$500.00 deposit is due by February 9th.
- The Social/Travel committee is looking for new members.

Legislative: Tom Moscovic reported on the following topics:

- The Universal Voucher Enactment in Ohio has triggered an increase in private school tuition, which takes away money from public schools. About 90% of the private school enrollment is in religious private schools; hence, Ohio law requires taxpaying citizens to contribute to religious institutions, contrary to the constitutional rights of each citizen. (Article I, section 7 and Article VI, section 2, Ohio Constitution)

- OEA thanks Sen. Sherrod Brown and U.S. Sen. Vance for signing onto the Act to repeal GPO and WEP. WEP reduces Social Security benefits of educators who contributed to Social Security in other jobs. GPO reduces (or eliminates) the Social Security spousal or survivor benefits of people who also get a pension such as STRS.
- Some people that won in recent School Board elections are in favor of The Joshua Super PAC. This group is in favor of making changes in public education.
- SB #184 would prohibit ballot drop boxes for absentee voting. This could make it more difficult for some eligible voters.

Scholarship: Tim Niederkorn reported on the following:

- Documents and the timeline were updated. At least one Letter of Recommendation must now come from the applicant's classroom teacher(s). A 5th writing prompt was also added. "Is there anything else you would like to share with the committee".
- The Timeline includes: Dec. 1st – The mailing/distribution of documents; Dec. 8th – follow-up email; March 15th – Deadline for applications to be received via email.
- The committee wants students to get the applications from the guidance counselors.
- Funding sources include donations at luncheons, donations with annual membership renewal, Memorials, and Dine-to-Donates. The next Dine-to-Donate is at El Palenque in Eastlake. It will be held November 29th from 11:00 am -10 pm. 25% -Dine in or To Go.

Membership: Karen Sawitke thanks all who have paid.

Teacher Grants: Letters have gone out to superintendents and will go out to principals.

- Jean P. Lentz Grant – Karen is looking for 1-2 new members to serve on the committee.
- Virginia Mlakar Award – Virginia's daughter, Debbie Ludwig, is donating \$2,000 every year for teachers in grades K-8. Recipients will receive up to \$500 and the guidelines are on the website. Members of the committee include Carolyn Arwood, Pat Humphrey, Connie Irvin, Ginny Keller, and Tim Niederkorn,

Sunshine/Remembrance: Ginny Keller sent sympathy cards to the families of Lillian Spivey and Bobette Kruter. A Thinking of You card was sent to Mary Pannesi, who traveled on the European Cruise.

Historian: Marion Lipinski thanked Sherry Niederkorn for pictures.

Public Relations: Sherry Niederkorn reported that articles had appeared in The News Herald, The Lake County Gazette, and The Review Newspaper.

Website: Sherry Niederkorn will continue posting the treasurer reports on the website.

NEW BUSINESS

- There is a need for someone to take over the Information/Protective Services position.
- There is a need for one more Director. Tim Niederkorn volunteered to serve along with Ginny Keller.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- December 4th – Seniors' Night Out at South High from 4-6 pm. (flyer available)
- Free Lunch – Debbie Deal
- 50/50 Raffle – Marilyn Elmore won \$21.00.
- Next LCRTA Board Meeting – December 4th at Kirtland Library at 1:00 pm
- Next LCRTA General Meeting – February 13, 2024 at The Kirtlander. Social begins at 11:00.

Debbie Deal
Recording Secretary