

**LCRTA GENERAL MEETING
MENTOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

WELCOME: President-Elect Ginny Keller welcomed members and guests to the meeting. Ginny welcomed Gail Gronwall (liaison from ORTA), Debbie Ludvik (daughter of Virginia Mlakar), Kathy Jennings, Cindi Vanderhide, and Connie Stumpf. Chaplain Greta Pate led The Pledge of Allegiance and shared the meditation “Prayer for Protection” in honor of 9/11/2001.

PROGRAM: Sherry Niederkorn introduced the guest speaker and author, Cathi Weber. Cathi shared “Ghost Stories of Haunted Willoughby”. The Social/Travel Committee arranged a Ghost Walk for Thursday, September 14th at 7:30. Participants are to meet at Willoughby Coal on Erie Street.

LUNCHEON: A catered luncheon included a chicken salad wrap or veggie wrap, pasta salad, a cookie, water and coffee.

BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting were approved by Pat Humphrey and seconded by Tim Niederkorn.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Pat Humphrey reported a total of all monies as of September 12, 2023 to be \$8,469.99 which included \$336.52 in Scholarship monies. The report will be filed for audit.

Social/Travel Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Lynn Miller reported a total of all monies as of September 12, 2023 to be \$3,849.56. The report will be filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Participation: Louise Bennet thanked members for the generous donations. Louise reminded members to turn in beverage tabs and volunteer hours.

Info/Protective Services: Janene will have an article in the newsletter.

Social/Travel: The committee is looking for an additional member.

The Little Red School House in Willoughby is in need of volunteers. Cathi Weber and Pat Mazzolini provided details on what would be involved.

Gail Allcock reported on the following events:

- September 14, 2023 – Ghost Walk of Willoughby. The contact is Gail Allcock and the cost is \$18.00.
- October 6-21, 2023 – “The Great Rivers of Europe” Riverboat Cruise. The contact is Sherry Niederkorn. There will be a travel meeting on September 20th at 1:30 at Mentor Public Library. Participants are asked to bring travel documents to the meeting.
- Travel Presentation Meeting - November 16th at 1:30 at Mentor Public Library
- November 28-December 2023 – Cape May at Christmas. The contact is Sarah Reinhard.
- October 10-19(20), 2024 – Hawaii. The contact is Sherry Niederkorn. Deposits of \$500 will be taken until February 9, 2024.

Legislative: Ginny read Tom Moscovic’s report. There are three gains in funding and improvements to public education that were made possible because of the thousands of members who contacted their elected officials, as well as the members who participated in OEA Lobby Days throughout the budget cycle.

- An increase in the state minimum teacher salary from \$30,000 to \$35,000

- An expansion of the free breakfast and lunch program to any student who qualifies for reduced meals
- For the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, parents and educators, not standardized test scores, will now determine whether a student should be retained or promoted. Additional supports will be given to students.

Parts of the budget that are contrary to the goal of public education include:

- The expansion of the income based EdChoice voucher program to universal eligibility for K-12 students and provides reduced voucher amounts for families over 450% of poverty
- SB#1 – This limits the role of the State Board of Education by shifting most of its powers and duties to a new cabinet agency named the Department of Education and Workforce.

Scholarship: Tim Niederkorn thanked the scholarship members, welcomes any new members, and thanked everyone who contributed to the Scholarship Fund.

- The first meeting of the year will be Friday, November 3rd at 9:00 am at the Kirtland Public Library.
- Upcoming Event: Dine-to-Donate (20%) at Panda Express in Mentor on Thursday, September 28th from 10:30 am-9:00 pm.

Sunshine/Remembrance: Ginny Keller sent “Thinking of You” cards to Jackie Wolf, Carol Herbst, Viola Hanna, and Elaine Courtney. A card was sent to the family of Rose Marie Sezon upon her death.

Historian: Marion Lipinski reported the scrapbook is up to date and thanked Sherry Niederkorn for the pictures.

Public Relations: Sherry was pleased that articles appeared in The Review Newspaper, The News-Herald, and The Lake County Tribune.

Yearbook: Bonnie Lillibridge asked members to inform the committee of changes.

Newsletter: Karen Sawitke said the next newsletter will go out after the board meeting.

Teacher Grants: Karen reported that the committee lost 2 members, so they are looking for new members. The committee will meet starting in October and the letters will go out to teachers on November 1st.

Website: Sherry Niederkorn reminded members to check out the website.

OLD BUSINESS

- Pat Humphrey introduced Debbie Ludvik, daughter of Virginia Mlakar, who is donating an annual memorial gift of \$2000 for The Mlakar Enrichment Fund. This donation will be used to provide programs for Elementary and Middle School students. Current committee members include Virginia Keller, Tim Niederkorn, Connie Irvin, Carolyn Atwood & Pat Humphrey.
- Sherry and Tim Niederkorn and Ginny Keller discussed the need for the membership to decide where future meetings should be held. A survey was given to the membership. Mary Sleeman has offered to be on the committee but needs volunteers to serve on the committee.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- President Cathy Trepal is newly married and is now Cathy Szuter
- 50/50 – Pat Humphrey donated the \$52.00 back to the Teacher Grant fund
- Free Lunch – Pat Newyear
- Next Board Meeting – October 2nd at 1:00 at Kirtland Public Library
- Next General Meeting – November 14th

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Debbie Deal - Recording Secretary