The Western Reserve Public Media President’s Report is published for the Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio Inc. Board of Directors, major funders of the station and other readers interested in the organization’s activities.

Spring 2017
Volume 11, Issue 2

The Battle for the Right to Vote premieres

It has been nearly a century since women won the battle for the right to vote with the passing of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920. The fight leading up to that win spanned decades and involved both women and men fighting for suffrage across the country and right here in Northeast Ohio.

THE BATTLE FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE, produced by Larry Baker Productions and Western Reserve PBS, explores moments in Cleveland and Akron history that fueled the historic event. Examples include Sojourner Truth’s famous “Ain’t I a Woman” speech that took place at the Women’s Rights Convention in Akron in 1851 and the efforts of Belle Sherwin, daughter of the founder of Sherwin-Williams, who led the suffrage movement in Northeast Ohio.

The men and women who fought for women’s suffrage faced ridicule, immense challenges and many hardships on the road to equality. Nevertheless, in the end it all led to success in accomplishing their ultimate goal—the right to vote for all American women.

The half-hour documentary premiered in April and is available as video on demand at video.westernreservepublicmedia.org.

New Ralph Regula documentaries coming to Western Reserve PBS

This summer, two new documentaries about former Congressman Ralph Regula will premiere on Western Reserve PBS. Canton producer Ron Ponder of Pondersystems Media and Marketing, in association with Western Reserve Public Media, is currently wrapping up production on both programs.

A one-hour national program will highlight bipartisanship, civility and progress within Congress, using Regula’s experiences and relationships to tell the story of how government can ultimately function. Examples include the realization of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, led by congressmen Regula and John Seiberling, and the Presideo Project in California, accomplished along with Representative Nancy Pelosi.

The local documentary will focus on the life of Regula and his many contributions to our region.

Regula is held in high regard throughout the nation, so it is no surprise that many local, state and national politicians, as well as family and constituents, have graciously agreed to be interviewed for these documentaries.

The project is funded by Stark Community Foundation.
“Home Fires” series ends with cliffhanger

Much to the chagrin of its fans, the MASTERPIECE series “Home Fires” ended in May with an unresolved storyline and a cliffhanger.

This was the second season for the acclaimed series. Before Season 3 began production, its broadcaster in the United Kingdom cancelled the show.

Fans of “Home Fires” will, however, have an opportunity to follow the lives of the characters they have come to love. Series creator Simon Block is writing four novels to continue telling the story of the women of Great Paxford as they live through World War II on the home front. “Keep the Home Fires Burning,” the first book, will be available in July 2017.

MASTERPIECE must-knows: 2017

MASTERPIECE recently announced special programs coming up, including both new and returning favorites. Here’s a rundown!

Grantchester
Premieres Sunday, June 18, at 9 PM
The crime-solving duo returns for a third season featuring seven episodes. When we last left the sleepy village, Sidney faced a moral dilemma: be with the woman he loves or take the moral high road. The vicar has never been a saint, but is this a step too far?

Prime Suspect: Tennison
Premieres Sunday, June 25, at 10 PM
Behind every great detective is a backstory. In “Prime Suspect: Tennison,” MASTERPIECE dials back the clock to spotlight the influences that turned 22-year-old rookie policewoman Jane Tennison into the savvy, single-minded crime fighter beloved by viewers over the course of seven seasons.

Starring Stefanie Martini in the iconic role immortalized by Helen Mirren, the series airs in three riveting 90-minute episodes.

Endeavour
Premieres Sunday, Aug. 20, at 9 PM
Shaun Evans and Roger Allam return as the iconic mystery-solving duo in Season 4. It’s the summer of 1967 and the effects of the Cold War and 1960s counterculture are being felt in Oxford. How will this changing landscape affect our favorite detectives?

The Durrells in Corfu
Premieres Sunday, Oct. 15, at 8 PM
Grab your sunblock; the Durrells return for a second season! Now a BAFTA nominee for Best Drama Series, “The Durrells in Corfu” stars Keeley Hawes as an intrepid widow who decamps from dreary England to a sun-dappled Greek island with her gaggle of eccentric children. It’s anyone’s guess as to what hijinks will ensue in Season 2!

More masterpieces yet to come!

More quality MASTERPIECE productions are planned for the fall and beyond, including “Poldark,” with Season 3 slated for an Oct. 1 premiere and Season 4 recently commissioned.

Productions whose air dates have yet to be announced include “The Miniaturist,” a three-part thriller based on the novel by Jessie Burton; “The Child in Time,” a lyrical and heartbreaking exploration of love starring Benedict Cumberbatch; and “Little Women,” a three-part adaptation of Louisa May Alcott’s coming-of-age classic.
Educational Services

Professional development sessions held
From January through March, 24 professional development sessions were held for educators. The Spring-Summer session will include 11 sessions.

Ohio Ready to Learn program’s funding renewed
The Ohio Ready to Learn program, which offers training and development for family child-care providers, has been funded for the coming year. This year, 27 workshops have been held, with three more scheduled for May.

Station co-sponsors conference
Western Reserve Public Media was a sponsor for the NEOtech Conference, held March 16 at Kent State University. More than 300 educators attended the event, which focused on educational technology integration in the classroom.

Educators receive financial literacy training
Twenty-four K-6 teachers received financial literacy training, called SmartPath, at Western Reserve Public Media in March. The program was held in cooperation with the University of Cincinnati’s Department of Economics, whose staff members participated virtually from the UC campus. Participating teachers received stipends for participating in the training.

Cleveland Mobile Fab Lab makes station visit
On April 18, Western Reserve Public Media hosted an event for teachers featuring the Cleveland Mobile Fab Lab. Attendees were invited to learn more about the national Maker Movement, which encourages students to use technology to dream, create and invent.

Staff members participate in technology conference
In early May, our Educational Services Department participated in the annual ITIP Ohio Summit featuring Google for Education at Kalahari Conference Center and Resort in Sandusky.

Over 750 attendees learned how to save thousands of dollars by using Google’s free Apps for Education, how to provide a technology-rich education and more. Western Reserve Public Media’s director of education, Jeff Good, facilitated several conference events and Laurie Green, 21st century learning consultant, led sessions designed for new Google users.

Foundation funds Camp Make-It
The Martha Holden Jennings Foundation has awarded Western Reserve Public Media funding for Camp Make-It for a second year. The three-day event will take place in mid-June and will include collaboration with the Cleveland Mobile Fab Lab. Teachers will learn about the Maker Movement and related technologies including Makey Makey and the coding language Scratch.

Staff members now certified Makey Makey trainers
In April, staff members Jeff Good and Laurie Green traveled to Columbus to become Makey Makey certified trainers. Makey Makey is technology developed by MIT students that allows students and teachers to experiment with creating switches and panels that operate different functions of a computer. Several school districts have requested Makey Makey training sessions.

Green speaks about Maker Movement at area schools
Laurie Green, 21st century learning consultant, recently discussed the Maker Movement with staff at Evamere Elementary School in Hudson. A campus for kindergarten and Grade 1 students, Evamere will be incorporating Makerspaces as a result of a recent grant.

Green also provided professional development to teachers at Copley-Fairlawn City Schools. The topics were learning coding using Scratch software and Ozobot, an educational robot.

STEM Outreach Day to be held
As part of a grant from the National Science Foundation, Laurie Green, 21st century learning consultant, is helping to coordinate a Latino STEM Outreach Day for Cleveland-area high school students, to be held June 22. She is working with Case Western Reserve University’s Sears think[box], Alianza Latina/Latin Alliance Group, Esperanza and the Hispanic Business Center in Cleveland.
Staff News, Training & Conferences

Trina Cutter talks about possible funding cuts
President and CEO Trina Cutter was interviewed on WFMJ-TV in Youngstown on March 21. The subject was the potential national cuts to funding for entities including the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Cutter explained how such cuts would negatively affect local public broadcasters.

Anthony Dennis attends conferences
Anthony Dennis, chief operating officer, attended the annual PBS TechCon in Las Vegas from April 19-21. TechCon has a rich, nearly 40-year history as a key educational event for anyone in public media who works in technology.

Jeff Good participates in National Guard event
Jeff Good, director of education, attended the Air/Army National Guard Educator/Guard 101 event on April 13 in Port Clinton. There, more than 30 educators learned about the National Guard’s services and educational offerings. The highlight of the day was a ride in a Chinook helicopter.

Gary Manke attends arts forum
On April 26, Gary Manke, producer/director, attended the Akron Community Foundation event Community Issues Session: How Art Transforms Communities. Held at Summit Artspace in downtown Akron, the event featured community discussion about ways that the arts positively impact our community.

Good attends diversity conference
Jeff Good attended the Diversity and Inclusion Conference held at Stark State University in Canton in April. The conference focused on the many facets of dealing with diversity in the workplace.

Laurie Green presents at technology conference
Laurie Green, 21st century learning consultant, presented a session about Makerspaces at the Ohio Tech Summit in Marion on April 20. Attendees included educators from public schools, engineering organizations, 4-H and more.

IT/Engineering

Time for spring cleaning!
In early March, station employees took time to clean out storage areas at our Kent office. Pictured here, Anthony Dennis, chief operating officer, and Blake Thompson, contract employee, load up old analog equipment for disposal.

To assure that the equipment was disposed of in an environmentally responsible way, we researched options and found vendors who were compliant with Environmental Protection Agency recycle and disposal regulations.