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.

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Summer 2017
Volume 11, Issue 3

New local productions

Blimp documentary to premiere
BLIMP! SPORTS, BROADCASTING AND THE GOODYEAR AIRSHIP, a new one-hour documentary that tells the compelling story of blimps as they relate to the sports industry, will premiere on Western Reserve PBS on Monday, Oct. 16, at 9 PM.

Produced, written and directed by Kathleen Endres, it features interviews with broadcasters Al Michaels, Robin Roberts and Mickey Wittman, plus blimp insiders, historians and television directors. It offers footage that has never been seen before plus a visit to the airship hangar at Wingfoot Lake for a look at the newest airship in the Goodyear fleet.

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company blimp is one of the best-known corporate symbols in existence today. The company’s airships have hovered over some of the biggest sporting events in our nation’s history, from the Rose Bowl to the World Series, from the Kentucky Derby to the Super Bowl, from the Olympics to NASCAR.

It is hard to imagine what sports broadcasting would be like without the blimp; however, back in the 1950s, some Goodyear executives debated whether to decommission this iconic, friendly behemoth in the sky.

For additional BLIMP! air dates on Western Reserve PBS and Fusion, visit westernreservepbs.org.

Ralph Regula: The Gentleman from Ohio premiers

Western Reserve PBS was the presenting station for a new documentary about the life and career of a renowned Ohio congressman. RALPH REGULA: THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO premiered on July 22, just three days after Regula died at age 92. Producer Ron Ponder said that Regula had enjoyed watching the finished production a few weeks before he died.

The program chronicles the life and career of Regula, who served Ohio’s 16th district for 36 years, from 1973 to 2009. It features his own recollections, as well as those of family, friends and colleagues.

Regula, a native of the Canton area, was well known for supporting and assisting local individuals and organizations. RALPH REGULA: THE GENTLEMAN FROM OHIO includes anecdotal stories of how the congressman helped ordinary citizens in his district. “One person can make a difference—just one person,” Regula says. “In fact, most things happen because of one person.”

The hourlong production was funded by the following organizations through the Stark Community Foundation: Akron Children’s Hospital; Aultman Health Foundation/Healthcare; Belden Brick Charitable Trust; Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce; Fresh Mark, Inc.; Invacare; Ohio Erie Canalway; The Pro Football Hall of Fame; Richard Nicely; Stark Development Board; Stark State College; Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway Company; and The Wilderness Center.

The production is available for viewing on demand at video.westernreservepublicmedia.org.
The Vietnam War—A Film by Ken Burns & Lynn Novick

THE VIETNAM WAR is a 10-part, 18-hour documentary film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. It will air Sundays through Thursdays, Sept. 17-28, at 8 PM. For additional air dates, visit westernreservepublicmedia.org/schedule.htm.

An immersive 360-degree narrative, the series features testimony from nearly 80 witnesses, including many Americans who fought in the war and others who opposed it, as well as Vietnamese combatants and civilians from both the winning and losing sides.

Ten years in the making, the series brings the war and the chaotic epoch it encompassed viscerally to life. It includes rarely seen archival footage, photographs taken by some of the most celebrated photojournalists of the 20th century, historic television broadcasts and revelatory audio recordings from inside the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon administrations.

Outreach & Special Events

Event offers opportunity to strengthen greater Akron community through sharing

On Tuesday, Oct. 3, Western Reserve PBS will be a host for On the Table Greater Akron, a one-of-a-kind initiative organized by Akron Community Foundation, where thousands of diverse residents from all walks of life and socio-economic backgrounds will gather to share a meal and discuss meaningful ideas to strengthen the Greater Akron community. It is an opportunity for residents to give input on what can be done to make the area a strong, vibrant, safe and dynamic place to live and work.

Community members are invited to be our guest for food and refreshments at Panera Bread, 689 Howe Ave., Cuyahoga Falls, and share their thoughts during one of 15 sessions to be held from 8 AM to 5 PM. After the event, participants will be asked to complete a short survey covering the big ideas that were shared. The Akron Community Foundation will share a community report highlighting the ideas, conversations, themes and outcomes that emerged.

To participate in the discussion, register online at westernreservepublicmedia.org or by phone at 330-677-4549. We look forward to hearing what’s on your mind!

Station announces participation in 2018 literacy event

Western Reserve PBS has announced that it will bring Buddy from DINOSAUR TRAIN to the 2018 Children’s Book Festival at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Youngstown.

The event, planned for Saturday, April 14, brings together authors, book characters, storytellers and hands-on activities to promote literacy in the Mahoning Valley.

Programming & Local Productions (cont’d.)

Poldark, Season 3 coming in October

Does George Warleggan finally have the upper hand against his archenemy, Ross Poldark? Can George’s growing power in Cornwall cement his control over the fate of his populist foe? Dream on!

MASTERPIECE presents the latest thrilling exploits of Ross Poldark and his fiery partner, Demelza, starring Aidan Turner and Eleanor Tomlinson as the intrepid 18th century duo, on “Poldark, Season 3,” airing in eight action-packed episodes on Sundays, Oct. 1 to Nov. 19 at 9 PM.

The new season co-stars Jack Farthing as the dastardly George and Heida Reed as his bewitching wife, Elizabeth, now estranged from her first love, Ross—or is she? Also returning are Caroline Blakiston as Ross’s crusty Aunt Agatha, whose passion in life is tormenting George; Beatie Edney as the irascible servant Prudie; Luke Norris as stalwart Dr. Dwight Enys; and Gabriella Wilde as Dwight’s secret fiancée, the fetching heiress Caroline Penvenen.
**Summit for Kids**

On Saturday, Aug. 19, our Department of Educational Services and PNC Bank brought Daniel Tiger of the PBS Kids Show DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD to the annual Summit for Kids, held at John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron.

**Instructional websites ready for teachers**

Our Department of Educational Services has finished production of two interactive multimedia projects for Ohio teachers. “Make-It: Learning through Exploration,” [www.wrmakeit.org](http://www.wrmakeit.org), offers lesson plans, activity sheets and videos about the maker movement.

“Developing Online Assessment Skills in Everyday Classroom Activities,” [www.wroskills.org](http://www.wroskills.org), is an interactive website filled with resources to assist teachers in integrating digital skills for use with online student assessment.

The state of Ohio’s Broadcast Educational Media Commission provided funding for the projects.

**Maker movement trainings held**

Our Department of Educational Services continues to be an important resource for educators interested in learning more about the maker movement, which encourages creativity and hands-on problem solving. Following are just some of the events:

- A session about Makey Makey creative products at Tri-County Computer Services Association (TCCSA)
- Three sessions at Marlington Tech Day in June
- Teacher training on integrating makerspaces in the elementary classroom held here in July
- On Aug. 9, sessions about makerspaces at Strongsville City Schools

**Using Google for education**

Staff members Laurie Green and Jeff Good conducted a two-day Google training for teachers, administrators and community members at United Local High School in Columbiana County. Sessions included information about Google’s aggregate applications, which are known as G-Suite, Google Classroom and more.

**Educators participate in innovative camp**

Twenty-five teachers participated in our three-day event, Camp Make-It: Explore+Make+Connect+Share, held in mid-June. The project, partially funded by the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, was in collaboration with the Cleveland Mobile FabLab. Participants spent each morning collaborating on projects as a team and learned how to design their own makerspaces. Afternoons were spent collaborating with fellow participants to design and make projects using the Cleveland Mobile FabLab’s prototyping supplies and equipment.

At the end of day three, participants gave presentations about all that they learned. Laurie Green, educational services consultant, and Jeff Good, director of education, led the event.

**Google training held for teachers and administrators**

Within a two-week period recently at Western Reserve Public Media, 20 educators and 17 administrators received training on Google applications thanks to a partnership between our Department of Educational Services and Sowash Ventures, LLC, located in Michigan. Sowash Ventures provided the two-day training and curriculum for the educators, while we furnished the facilities and an overview. The following week, at the two-day Google Administrators Boot Camp, training focused on the technical side of supporting Google applications in school districts.

**Educators learn about INFOhio**

INFOhio, our state's pre-K-12 digital library, gave a presentation here in early August titled “Book Nooks: Creating Digital Hooks for Literacy.” During this hands-on workshop, educators explored INFOhio’s new resource called Book Nook. Attendees learned how to create their own book trailers and discovered how digital storytelling can be incorporated across the curriculum.
**Staff News, Training & Conferences**

**Trina Cutter’s recent activities**

President and CEO Trina Cutter has been busy with community and industry events, including the following:

- In June, attended the Ohio Educational Television Station’s Annual Meeting in Columbus
- On July 13, attended the GAR Foundation Strategy Information Session to learn about the foundation’s new focus and goal to deepen community outcomes
- On Aug. 22, attended a meeting arranged by the Ohio Broadcasting Association with Congressman Bob Gibbs at his district office in Ashland to share the important work that broadcasters do in the district and to talk about key issues affecting broadcasters

**Employees attend conferences**

On May 31, Director of Education Jeff Good and Producer/Director Gary Manke attended Game Research and Immersive Design, a virtual-reality training seminar, at Ohio University.

In late June, Good and Laurie Green, educational services consultant, attended the ISTE Conference & Expo in San Antonio, Texas. This comprehensive educational conference focuses on technology use in today’s classroom.

Green also attended the 17th annual SPARCC Tech Conference, held at Stark State College on Friday, Aug. 4. She presented a hands-on session on makerspaces and staffed a booth that promoted Western Reserve Public Media’s educational services.

**There goes the sun!**

Western Reserve Public Media staff celebrated the Aug. 21 solar eclipse by offering free NASA-approved viewing glasses to the public. In addition, we had a staff luncheon with eclipse-themed food and decorations before heading outside to witness the historic event.

**Staff learns about the next generation of TV**

On Aug. 24, staff members participated in a learning lunch that featured a National Association of Broadcasters webcast, “Applications for ATSC 3.0: The Next Generation Television Standard.” It explained the interactivity and flexibility of the new standard and described how stations can develop applications that matter to viewers.

The FCC is expected to ratify the new standard, dubbed “Next Gen TV,” in the coming months, so this new information will help staff members when communicating with viewers and clients.

**Gary Manke, Debra Racey volunteer at NATAS event**

On June 17, staff members Debra Racey and Gary Manke volunteered at the 48th Annual NATAS Lower Great Lakes Chapter Regional Emmy Awards, which took place at Cleveland’s Downtown Hilton. Manke is producer/director at Western Reserve Public Media and Racey is a corporate support account representative. Manke has been involved with the regional NATAS chapter since the 1990s, serving as president, past president and chapter administrator.

**Laurie Green participates in training, conferences**

Laurie Green attended Picacademy, a two-day training program provided by the nonprofit organization Raspberry Pi. Thousands of teachers apply each year and only 40 are accepted to a session. Held in late July at the Ann Arbor District Library in Michigan, the training focused on the integration of computers and computing skills in today’s classroom. Participants received certification as a Raspberry Pi Certified Educator.

In August, Green presented two sessions at the GTech Summit in Genoa, Ohio, about technology tools and educational makerspaces.