Enhanced news schedule, GREAT AMERICAN READ, dramas and more are coming this fall

The best news about fall may not be the cooler weather but rather the gold mine of new shows that will keep us warm. Anchored by THE GREAT AMERICAN READ, the Western Reserve PBS (WNEO-WEAO) fall schedule also includes revised news programming, exciting MASTERPIECE dramas and much more.

Expanded news coverage begins Monday, Sept. 3, when our weekday variety programming that previously aired at 6:30 PM moves to 6 PM. This makes room for NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT to air weekdays at 6:30 PM. ON STORY and PBS NEWSHOUR WEEKEND will air on Saturdays at 5 PM and 5:30 PM beginning Sept. 3. Finally, the new one-hour late-night public affairs program AMANPOUR & CO., a collaboration with CNN, will air weeknights at 11 PM beginning Monday, Sept. 10.

Exploring the power, passion and joy of reading, THE GREAT AMERICAN READ (Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Oct. 23) continues with five one-hour themed episodes that examine concepts common to groups of books on the list. For the series finale on Oct. 23, the results are announced of a nationwide vote to choose America’s best-loved book.

On Sunday nights, Western Reserve PBS continues to be the destination for drama. Highlights include new MASTERPIECE series “The Miniaturist,” premiering Sept. 9, a new special ANNE OF GREEN GABLES: FIRE & DEW (Sept. 23) and the new five-part series THE WOMAN IN WHITE, premiering Oct. 21. On Sept. 30, we celebrate the return of two popular MASTERPIECE series, “The Durrells in Corfu” (Season 3) and “Poldark” (Season 4). From the makers of “Downton Abbey,” the eight-part drama “Jamestown,” currently available only to Passport viewers, will air beginning in October.

Premiering Sept. 25 is THE MAYO CLINIC: FAITH–HOPE–SCIENCE, executive produced by Ken Burns and directed by Burns, Erik Ewers and Christopher Loren Ewers, which reveals how one institution has met the changing demands of health care for 150 years—and what that can teach us about patient care today. WE’LL MEET AGAIN with Ann Curry returns Tuesday, Oct. 30, for a second season of powerful personal stories that explore some of history’s most dramatic events.

Premiering Wednesday, Oct. 24, is SUPER CATS, A NATURE MINISERIES, which uncovers the secret lives of the big cats that thrive across the continents. Also, the four-part NATIVE AMERICA, premiering Tuesday, Oct. 23, combines modern science with Native knowledge to explore the splendor and ingenuity of the world created by America’s first people.

PBS Kids announces a new animated series called LET’S GO LUNA, in which the moon (Luna) accompanies her human friends around the world, looking at different people and cultures. The series launches this November.

Finally, look for new seasons of CALL THE MIDWIFE and ENDEAVOUR in 2019.
Programming & Local Productions (cont’d.)

New learning standards videos produced
In late June, Western Reserve Public Media completed production of seven videos showcasing Ohio’s new Learning Standards for Technology. The project was funded by the State of Ohio through the Broadcast Educational Media Commission and the Ohio Department of Education. Six videos were produced for teachers in specific grade bands while one additional video serves as an overview. The ODE gave the videos high praise and immediately used the overview video in a workshop in early July.

Schools highlighted in the videos are Akron STEM High School, Genoa Elementary School in Ottawa County, Hoover High School in North Canton, Jackson High School in Massillon, East Canton Elementary School, and Willard Elementary School in Ravenna.

The videos, averaging five minutes each, can be viewed at www.westernreservepublicmedia.org/teaching-with-tech.

Membership

Membership support increases
Our membership totals are experiencing an upward trend, with a 1.3 percent increase in total members during the last 12 months. In part, this rise is due to an increase in sustaining memberships.

A sustaining member is someone who commits to making an ongoing contribution, typically monthly, of a set amount with no fixed end-date. Monthly gifts continue until the donor acts to stop them. During our past fiscal year, sustaining memberships grew by 89.6 percent.

Marketing & Development

Area arts organizations recognize Leonard Bernstein
Beginning this fall, three of our nonprofit underwriting partners will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of American composer Leonard Bernstein. Western Reserve PBS is proud to be a sponsor of each of these special tributes.

On Oct. 6, the Canton Symphony Orchestra will present “A Tribute to Leonard Bernstein” at Umstattd Performing Arts Hall. The Kent State University School of Theatre and Dance will present the stage production “West Side Story” from Nov. 2 -11 at E. Turner Stump Theatre. Finally, the Akron Symphony Orchestra will present the symphony concert version of “West Side Story” on May 4, 2019, at EJ Thomas Performing Arts Hall.

Educational Services

Courses offer graduate credit
Our Department of Educational Services is offering classes for educators that provide graduate credit from Kent State University, including Maker Camp 3.0, to be held in August. Becoming an Effective Coach is a three-part series that follows the book The Art of Coaching by Elena Aguilar and will be offered later this fall.

Early-learning services expanded and enhanced
The United Way of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley has issued a two-year grant to Western Reserve Public Media to expand our Ready to Learn workshops and offer additional Step Up to Quality workshops to family child-care providers in the Youngstown and Mahoning Valley. Currently 30 trainings are conducted per year across our viewing area. The expansion will allow for an additional 30 training sessions per year, specifically targeting the Youngstown area.

Fred Rogers Foundation grants to support children’s events
Fred Rogers Foundation has funded us for another year of Be a Caring Neighbor events to be held in Akron and Canton.

Daniel Tiger and Katarina, from DANIEL TIGER’S NEIGHBORHOOD, will greet attendees at the Summit for Kids event at the John S. Knight Center in Akron on Aug. 18. On Sept. 30, our station will sponsor a visit from Daniel Tiger for the Big Toy Event at the Canton Arts and Cultural Center.

At both events, children will receive school supplies, create craft frames and make caregiver posters. Once completed, the posters will be distributed to area first responders, local school districts and area senior centers to be displayed.

The GREAT AMERICAN READ grant is awarded
In partnership with Geauga County Public Library and Youngstown City Schools, we have received a $5,000 grant from national PBS to promote the series THE GREAT AMERICAN READ. The series, which explores and celebrates the power of reading, airs Tuesdays, Sept. 11-Oct. 23.

Geauga County Public Library will promote the series at its branches and will hold episode screenings and discussions.

At Taft Elementary School in Youngstown, we will partner with Native Sons, a literacy program for at-risk youth. Taft will promote an after-school program for THE GREAT AMERICAN READ that will be open to students in grades 5-8, their parents, community members and other local partnering organizations.
Staff members participate in Ohio technology educators’ summit

In May, our Educational Services staff supported the ITIP Ohio Summit Featuring Google for Education. The two-day event was held at the student union on the campus of Ohio State University, with over 820 educators in attendance.

Heather Smith presented sessions on being an effective coach. Jeff Good, director of education, coordinated each day’s activities with opening presentations. Good serves as president of Instructional Technology Integration Partnership of Ohio (ITIP Ohio).

Station sponsors technology educators’ conference and camp

More than 40 teachers attended the Northeast Ohio Technology Integration Leaders of Ohio (NE TILO) event held here in May. One-hour sessions throughout the morning dealt with subjects including virtual reality, robotics and dealing with social media. Participants gathered in the morning and at the close of the event to discuss and share what they learned from the presentations.

Western Reserve Public Media will hold its first NE TILO Edcamp on Sept. 14. Edcamps are unconferences for educators where learners share their experiences and professional expertise in a collaborative, interactive learning environment.

Board News

New board positions announced

On Tuesday, May 22, Youngstown State University appointee Bonnie Deutsch Burdman was elected chairwoman of the board of directors of Western Reserve Public Media. She replaces community volunteer and University of Akron retired dean Mark Auburn, who will continue serving as a board member.

Deutsch Burdman has served as director of community relations/government affairs for Youngstown Area Jewish Federation since 1996. In this capacity, she works closely with national Jewish agencies on numerous social justice advocacy projects, serves as the primary federation staff person in the promotion of the pro-Israel agenda and does work in Holocaust commemoration and anti-genocide education.

Also newly named to board leadership positions are Romona Davis, vice chair, and Nathan Ritchey, secretary. Davis is vice president—senior SBA business development officer at The Huntington National Bank in Akron. Ritchey is the senior officer at Kent State University responsible for oversight of the university’s seven regional campuses.

Dr. John C. Green named to board

Dr. John C. Green, who became interim president of The University of Akron on May 1, 2018, is now an ex officio member of the Western Reserve Public Media board of directors.

Dr. Green has more than 30 years of service as a University of Akron administrator and faculty member. He has led Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences, UA’s largest academic unit, as dean and interim dean since 2015. He also served as vice dean for liberal arts, chair of the Department of Political Science and interim chair for five other departments.

On Saturday, July 21, President and CEO Trina Cutter hosted an informational table on behalf of the Ohio Women Veterans Advisory Committee at the Stark County’s Women Veterans Resource Fair in Massillon. Pictured on her left is retired Marine veteran Elva Pounders and in the back is DeAnn Covey, executive director of the Stark County Veterans Services Commission. Cutter is an Air Force veteran and serves on the advisory committee’s board.
Paula Kritz promoted
On July 1, Paula Kritz was promoted from graphics specialist to digital platforms and publications manager. She has been with the organization for 24 years, the longest of all current employees.

Welcome, new employees!
Congratulations to Heather Smith, who on Aug. 1 joined our staff as coordinator of educational services. Smith had been working with our Educational Services staff as a consultant since November.

We also welcome Kelly Murphy Woodward as producer/director/writer. She is an award-winning producer who says she loves to tell a good story and has been privileged to do that for more than 20 years, working in public television and radio and commercial news. Most recently, she ran her own production business.

Collaborative projects explored
In August, six representatives from Western Reserve Public Media, including President and CEO Trina Cutter, met with administrators from Walsh University to explore possible collaborative projects using Walsh’s Mother Angelica Video Production Lab that is housed in the newly built Global Learning Center.

Anthony Dennis’ son performs with jazz group
Andru Dennis, son of staff member Anthony Dennis, was featured on Fox 8 News in Cleveland in June as a member of the jazz band Acid Cats. The band was promoting its upcoming performance at the Tri-C JazzFest.

Andru holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Hartford in Connecticut with a specialty in jazz studies.

Educational Services staff members’ activities
On June 18, Jeff Good and Heather Smith attended APS3T Teach Tech Transform in Akron, which focused on the Future Ready initiative at Akron Public Schools. Smith presented the session “Becoming an Effective Coach.”

From June 24-27, Good and Smith attended the ISTE Conference, a national educational technology conference held in Chicago.

From July 23-25, Good attended the 2018 Connections to Education Conference held by the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education.