



## news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator  
330-677-4549 or [dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org](mailto:dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Western Reserve PBS to Celebrate Local Productions in April

*Event to include premiere of two new documentaries*

KENT, Ohio — March 30, 2018 — Two new local productions premiering on April 21 on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO Channel 45/WEAO Channel 49) are part of a celebration of the value of local programming. THE WOMEN WHO HELPED WIN A WAR, which will air at 7 PM, features three women who moved to Akron during World War II to take aircraft industry jobs. A MORE PERFECT UNION, which will air at 7:35 PM, discusses congressional bipartisanship using former U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula's career as an example.

The new programs are part of a 3.5-hour block of programs produced by community partners who feature the people, places and ideas that showcase Northeast Ohio. Following is the program block, which will air from 6-9:30 PM:

- FLOATING ON AIR, in which blimp enthusiasts share the fascinating history of Akron's unofficial mascot of the skies. The program was produced in 2001 by former University of Akron professor Phil Hoffman.
- THE WOMEN WHO HELPED WIN A WAR, which tells how during World War II, as men were called up for duty, women took their places on the factory production line in Akron. Archived interviews with Edith White Franks, originally from South Charleston, W.V.; Helen Farley Argenio, an East Liverpool native; and Oma Kline Porter, originally from Steubenville, tell their compelling stories. Steve Mitchell, a retired educator and volunteer at MAPS Air Museum in Canton, produced the new program.
- A MORE PERFECT UNION, which uses the career of the late Ralph Regula of Canton, who was U.S. representative for Ohio's 16th congressional district from 1973-2009, as an example of the importance

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of bipartisanship in today's political climate. Ron Ponder, owner of PonderSystems media production company in Canton, produced the new program.

- AROUND AKRON WITH BLUE GREEN, which is a local production that showcases Akron-area people, places, culture and history. New episodes of the series, introduced in 2016 and produced by Akronite Blue Green, air monthly.
- STUDIO C SESSIONS, a weekly series that typically airs on Fridays at 9 PM on Western Reserve PBS, features musical performances captured live at public radio station The Summit (91.3 FM Akron-Canton and 90.7 FM Youngstown-Warren-Western Pennsylvania). The series, which is a partnership between The Summit and Western Reserve PBS, premiered in 2015.

This special local programming event will repeat on Sunday, April 22, from 1-4:30 AM and on Sunday, April 29, from 3-6:30 PM on Western Reserve PBS.

“Locally owned and operated public television stations are the last bastion dedicated to creating programming that reflects our region’s identity,” said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of Western Reserve Public Media. “Our objective with this event is to celebrate the importance of locally tailored television programming that informs, entertains and enlightens viewers about life in Northeast Ohio.”

For more information about Western Reserve Public Media programming, including the current program schedule, visit [westernreservepublicmedia.org](http://westernreservepublicmedia.org).

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

Western Reserve Public Media is the business name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEO 49.2) and MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEO 49.3).

Our Educational Services Department provides technology training and educational content to over 24,000 educators and over 300,000 K-12 students, plus Ready To Learn Services to over 100,000 preschool children's parents and child-care providers.

For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.