



YOUR Life / YOUR Way

Find it; Own it; Live it!

From Our President - Chrissie McClure ...

Dear Members,

Welcome back to our very own AACP newsletter! A huge heartfelt thank you to Vicki Bennett for volunteering to take it on again and for all of the great people who contributed. If you have anything that you would like to see added, please let us know.

It is no secret that the cur-

rent financial situation of Akron Public Schools is in crisis. I have received no definitive answers as to where any of the cuts are going to be coming from. I ask that if you have any questions to please contact me rather than to assume what you heard is fact.

Please continue to give your high level of service to our students, parents, staff and

communities. And most importantly, give your support to each other during this uncertain time.

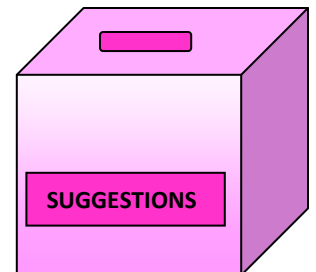


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NOTE:

- **HEY MEMBERS**—want to share some information with your AACP family?? Please email vbennett with your questions, trivia, something exciting you did, a recipe, a new addition to the family; a remedy you found to beat the flu bug; a way to get through the school day when you are struggling—just ask a member how to do something. Have any recommendations or comments on how to improve the newsletter—something you would like to see in the upcoming issues—PLEASE LET ME KNOW!! All suggestions welcome!



Union business (In YOUR Corner) ...

Greetings: My name is Beverly A. Woolridge and I work as an Administrative Secretary to the

Assistant Superintendent in the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, located in Room 213 of the Sylvester Small Administration Building. I have been employed with the Akron Public Schools and a member of the local AACP (*Akron Association of Classified Professionals—formerly OAPSE Local 117*) since March 1979.

The laundry list of my participation on the local, regional, and state levels is long and I won't bore you with all of it. I have served the Local in many capacities including, but not limited to Vice-President, Secretary,

OEA/NEOEA (*Ohio Education Association/Northeast Ohio Education Association*) Local Delegate, Negotiations Team Member, FCPE (*Fund for Children of Public Education*) Chairperson, Labor Management Chairperson, etc. I have availed myself of many of the trainings offered by OEA such as the Minority Leadership Program, Leadership Academies, Treasurer's School, SERS (*School Employees Retirement System*) Board Trustee Scholarship Program, etc. Currently, in addition to serving on the Board of Trustees for the State of Ohio School Employees Retirement System, I serve on one of five OEA Core Function Committees-CFC, the CFC for Organizational Strategies—and I am a member of OAESP—Ohio Association of Education Support Professionals.

The reason I am writing you is that on or about the 15th of each month, I will feature an article entitled "In Your Corner" which will bring information good for the order of our Local. There are a wide range of topics that can be addressed in this forum. One item in particular will be the Highlights from the SERS Board Meetings. It is my hope that it will help decrease our member apathy and increase our member activism. That is the goal; to help revive, increase, energize, renew (*whatever adjective works*) involvement in our AACP Local.

"In Your Corner" is a vehicle for AACP members to get questions answered and exchange information. Please make use of it. If you do, you will find that I really am 'in your corner.'

Cordially,



Look who got caught doing ...

There is a rumor going around that **Danielle C.** can do a ribbon dance!



Can't wait for the show?

Did you catch a co-worker doing something fun; daring; helpful—would you like to share your story so we can all appreciate them?

SERS Board Meeting Highlights—follow this link:

“Don't follow your dreams; Chase them!”



Spotlight on Wanda “Sherry” Basinger

A new body at the Administration building in the Akron Plan Office ...

Sherry started with APS in 2003 as a Community Sub for Bonnie Wagner at Pfeiffer when her children attended school there. In March of 2007 she started subbing in the classroom as and Ed Assist. She took the parapro test, became Highly Qualified and was hired fulltime at Barrett Academy in an Achieve Unit in No-

ember of 2007. In November of 2008 she bid on the Clerical position at King/Findley. In October of 2011 they changed her position to Findley CLC all day. In January of 2011 she took the Secretary II—Civil Services and has been on that list until now. Sherry also works at Wal-mart on Arlington Street as a Customer Service Manager a couple nights a week. She is very excited to be working in Akron Plan!

More from Sherry: “I am married it will be 24 years in May, my husbands name is Jeff. I have 2 children, my oldest is Jeff Jr. he is 19 yrs. old he was attending AU and has decided to take a semester off. My youngest is Courtney she will be 15 in April. She is a freshman at Coventry HS and plays Basketball. No grandchildren yet! (Thank God) ha-ha

My birthday is March 25th.



The things I love to do are spend time with my Family and scrapbooking.

I also stay busy with church at Riverside Christian Missionary Alliance.”

Spotlight on ... Marcia K. Eastman



I grew up in the awesome community of Firestone Park in the 70's. Attended Firestone Park,

Roswell Kent and Garfield High School. I attended the 2 year vocational course "Business Graphics" which lead me into the job I have today. I have been working in the Printing Department for 32.5 years with 3 wonder-

ful co-workers, two of which are also Business Graphics graduates. Technology has changed so much for printing over the years it really lets you reminisce your past. I was a certified scuba diver in the 80's and would dive off of Cozumel, Mexico, Island of Bimini in the Bahamas. Attended a mission trip with my daughter to one of the highest poverty levels in mountains of West Virginia. Live in Cuyahoga Falls since 1985. Married for 21 years, divorced for 6 years. I have

three beautiful daughters, Kaitlan - 22 years old, a Medical Assistant and works for North East Ohio Cardio doctors office for City Hospital, Rachel - 20 years old, a Medical Assistant and works for On Site Health Care. Kelly - (18 in April) is a senior at Woodridge, a cheerleader and is planning on attending Akron U in the fall. One grand-son, Braelon - 3 years old and one granddaughter, Alayna - 14 months. Both grandkids are always so happy and fun to

be with. They make you feel like you don't have a care in the world.

My boyfriend Dave and I have been dating for 5 1/2 years. My interest these days are keeping up with my house, keeping involved in my family, friends and Bible studies at my church. MY BIGGEST ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH GOD'S DOING.....I am a cancer survivor! Marcia does the birthday calendar at the Administration building and you never know what she might come up with (but we all love them)!!

This & That about our AACP family ...

Cheryl Johnston, (North HS) announces that her daughter, Kayla Paskett is getting married on February 18th, 2012!

Two hearts, Two souls, One love, Forever!!

Regina Hill, (Firestone HS) is a first time grandma!! Liam Alan Sprain was born to her daughter & son-in-law. He weighed in at 9 lbs., 5 oz. and was 22 inches long. What a beautiful Christmas present!

Vicki Bennett, (Admin—Office of School Climate) I just wanted to share my trip with everyone! I went to Punta Cana, Dominic Republic from Friday through a Monday in December—It was BEAUTIFUL!! I even parasailed! I would recommend a trip like this to anyone that just wants to get away and loves the beach & sand!!

Penny Smith, Ott, Child Study, married off her youngest daughter, Ashley to Zachary Boggs on 9/10/11! It was beautiful

and they are doing wonderful in their new home in Ellet! Penny didn't lose a daughter she gained a wonderful son-in-law!! Much Happiness!!!

Beverly Matthews, Certificated Staff is having a BIG birthday on 2/12!! If you see her wish her many more!!

Mary Spak, Firestone HS is also having a birthday on 2/23. If you see Mary wish her many more too!!
™ you girlfriend!!



Life should not be a journey to the grave

with the intention of arriving safely in

an attractive and well preserved body, but rather

to skid in sideways,

chocolate in one

hand, champagne in the

other, body thoroughly used

up, totally worn out and

screaming.... WOO

HOO.... What a

RIDE!"



And we will make sure Kathie gets them so she can address your questions.

Thank you for sharing Kathie, we all appreciate your insight into that next phase and working on our "bucket list!" What's on your "bucket list"?

Helpful information on retiring

Kathie Smith, retiree talks about what to expect when you retire, getting ready for the next phase of your life ...

Are you contemplating retirement? Do you have a "life plan"!

Once you have made your decision about retirement and have contacted SERS to obtain all the necessary information you will need, it is time to give some thought as to what you will do with your new "free time". I know we all say we will sleep in, travel, and do whatever it is we want to do whenever we want to do it. But, will you follow through? Some do and some don't.

Having been retired three years now, I thought I had it all figured out. My hus-

band and I retired at the same time and thought we would travel and go south for some of the winter months. We tried that. It was ok, but we missed our grandkids too much to be gone that long again. I have talked with several retirees and asked what they are doing to fill their time. I've gotten lots of responses; some travel, some volunteer, some have different and varied hobbies and many return to APS to sub. What they all say is they are enjoying a "less stressful lifestyle" and that it is really important to stay active. Many have made a "bucket list" of things they really want to accomplish. That gives them a goal to work towards. I can offer only a couple

pieces of advice, 1) live in the present because tomorrow is never guaranteed; and 2) have realistic expectations about your retirement.

In future columns I will be spotlighting retirees and what they are doing with their "free time".

If you have questions/concerns you would like addressed, send them to Chrissie McClure or Vicki Bennett and they will see that I get them.

If you are a retiree and wish to share a story with your fellow APS secretaries, please feel free to send me that information and any pictures you might wish to share.

If you have questions for Kathie, please email vbennett@akron.k12.oh.us or

Recipe Section



Blueberry Coffee Cake (*Makes 1 loaf pan. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake for 40-45 min.*)

1 Cup Whole Wheat, Oat, or Spelt flour (or combination of)	1/3 cup maple syrup, room temp
3 Tbls Rolled Oats	1 large egg, room temp
1/2 tsp each baking powder, baking soda, fine sea salt, ground ginger	
1 Tbls each sugar, cinnamon	2 tsp vanilla extract
4 Tbls unsalted butter, room temp	1/4 cup buttermilk
1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries	zest and juice of 1 large lemon

Butter a loaf pan and line with parchment paper. You can butter and flour, but sometimes the cake will fall apart. Whisk flour, oats, baking powder, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, sugar, ginger and set aside. Beat butter until light and fluffy. Drizzle in Maple syrup, beat well. Beat in egg, zest, lemon juice, and extract until well blended. Alternate adding flour mixture and buttermilk to butter mixture, careful not to over mix. Continue until completely blended together. Fold in blueberries. Pour evenly into loaf pan. Bake. A toothpick inserted in the center should come out clean. Let sit in pan for 5 minutes before removing. Enjoy!

Can add optional streusel topping of 1/2 cup whole wheat/oat/or spelt flour, 4 Tbls unsalted butter cut into 1/4" cubes, 1/3 cup maple sugar or brown sugar, 1 Tbls sugar, 1/2 Tbls cinnamon and ginger. Put ingredients into a food processor and pulse 20-30 times or until crumbly.

Pour mixture atop batter and gently pat down. May add extra blueberries if you wish.

Recipe provided by: Ramona Carroll, School Secretary—Case Elementary - Thank you!!



AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Here's a website with Empowering, Inspirational Quotes - check it out ...
<http://www.yourlifeyourway.net/2011-most-empowering-inspirational-quotes-for-sassy-kickass-women/>

Trivia ...

(it is February so)

In 1993, Bill Murray and Harold Ramis turned in what would be one of the more unexpectedly charming films of the decade. Groundhog Day showed us a true scoundrel who eventually finds redemption by reliving the same day over and over. You may be pretty sure that you've already taken this quiz, but how well do you know Groundhog Day?

1) The film takes place in what state? A) New York; B) New Hampshire; C) Massachusetts; or D) Pennsylvania

2) In the weathercast that opens the film, Phil employs what stunt? A) He simulates snow with powdered sugar; B) He pretends to blow clouds across the map; C) He uses magnetic suns to stick on the map or D) He uses a shadow puppet

3) Including the events in the film, how many years in a row has Phil gone to Punxsutawney? A) 4; B) 7; C) 10; or D) 17

4) Who is singing when Phil's alarm clock turns on? A) Sonny & Cher; B) The Beach Boys; C) The Mamas & the Papas or D) Steppenwolf

5) Phil robs? A) The Bed & Breakfast; B) An armored truck; C) A bank or D) A grocery store

6) Rita wins Phil in a bachelor auction for \$339.88. What was the winning bid for Larry? A) a nickel; B) a quarter; C) \$25; or D) \$400

7) Which is true of February 3rd? A) There is no hot water in the B&B B) He wakes up alone; C) The same song plays when his alarm clock goes off as did on February 2nd or D) There is no snow on the ground.

Answers: 1)D; 2)B; 3A; 4)A; 5)B; 6)B & 7)C