Western Reserve PBS celebrates local programming

On April 21 and April 29, Western Reserve PBS showcased a 3.5-hour block of the best television programming that Northeast Ohio has to offer.

Two of the five programs were premieres. THE WOMAN WHO HELPED WIN A WAR was produced by Steve Mitchell, a retired educator and volunteer at MAPS Air Museum in Canton. It tells the story of three women who relocated to Akron to help produce more than 4,000 Corsair aircraft during World War II. A MORE PERFECT UNION was produced by Ron Ponder, owner of PonderSystems media production company. It discusses bipartisanship in Congress, using the career of Ralph Regula as an example. Other programs featured during the event were FLOATING ON AIR, AROUND AKRON WITH BLUE GREEN and STUDIO C SESSIONS.

“I love that we dedicated an entire block of programming to local shows,” said President and CEO Trina Cutter. “It gave us the opportunity to promote our commitment to telling local stories about the people, places and ideas in Northeast Ohio and offered a fabulous showcase for the independent producers that work with us.” Cutter added that she received great feedback about the event and hopes to build on it in the future.
Outreach & Special Events

Plant the Seed to Read

Our station brought Buddy from DINOSAUR TRAIN to the 12th annual Plant the Seed to Read Youngstown Area Children's Book Fair on April 14. Taking place at the Fellows Riverside Gardens, the free event brought together storytellers, illustrators, book characters, celebrity readers and many fun activities for children.

Members enjoy Celtic Woman event

Members who snapped up concert tickets and meet-and-greet passes to a recent Celtic Woman concert got their reward on April 19 at Playhouse Square. Pictured are Mr. and Mrs. James Anthony (center) with Celtic Woman singers (l to r) Susan McFadden, Máiréad Carlin, Tara McNeill and Éabha McMahon.

Station is concert co-sponsor

On April 21, Western Reserve Public Media co-sponsored the Canton Symphony’s Masterworks Season Finale, “Carmina Burana.” Featuring over 200 performers, the orchestra, under the direction of conductor Gerhardt Zimmerman, together with The Canton Symphony Chorus, The Summit Chorale Society, Malone College Chorus and the NEOS Dance Company, ended the season with a brilliant performance.

Members attend private Brit Floyd sound check

At the Wednesday, May 2, Brit Floyd concert held at Packard Music Hall in Warren, 20 station members sat in on the band’s private sound check prior to attending the concert.

Summer of Adventure takes viewers around the world

This summer, enjoy programs that will take you to some of the most remarkable destinations in the United States and abroad, from touring the vibrant immigrant communities in American cities with Chef Marcus Samuelsson in NO PASSPORT REQUIRED (Tuesdays, July 10-Aug. 14) to climbing to the top of the Rocky Mountains, the Himalayas and the Andes in KINGDOMS OF THE SKY (Wednesdays, July 11-25).

In addition, viewers will visit places where human survival is pushed to the limits in EARTH’S NATURAL WONDERS (Wednesdays, July 11-25) and explore streets, monuments and modern marvels in 10 THAT CHANGED AMERICA (Tuesdays, July 10-24).

Summer also brings the return of the PBS and BBC co-production CIVILIZATIONS, with four additional episodes that explore the power of art from past to present (Tuesdays, June 12-July 3).
Educational Services

Station hosts meeting of educational technology professionals
The first gathering of the Northeast Ohio Technology Integration Leaders of Ohio (NETILO) was held in February, with over 50 educators in attendance. NETILO is a regional group formed from an original Ohio Department of Education initiative titled Tech Integration Leaders of Ohio (TILO). There are several regional TILO groups but Western Reserve Public Media’s efforts are the first in Northeast Ohio.

The group met to discuss technology initiatives, an ODE initiative titled Future Ready Schools and a product demo by NETILO partner DriveMinds. The group will meet again in May and will sponsor EdCamp in September. It is headed up by one of our educational technology consultants, Heather Smith.

Professional development highlights
In March, consultant Heather Smith conducted the initial Effective Coaching class with a group of teachers. In addition, Jeff Good, director of education, continued the station’s collaboration with the Economics Center at the University of Cincinnati, conducting SmartPath training for area educators.

The spring/summer professional development schedule was distributed to area educators in April. Several summer opportunities have been developed for teachers, including a potential three-day Camp Maker for Educators, 3.0—a popular summer professional development session offered in mid-June. The camp opportunity is contingent upon Martha Holden Jennings Foundation funding.

Station is conference co-sponsor
Western Reserve PBS was a conference sponsor for the ninth annual NEOTech conference held at Kent State University in March. More than 400 teachers from across our service area attended the professional development sessions. Heather Smith and Jeff Good from our Educational Services Department staffed the Western Reserve PBS booth, handing out tote bags and information related to our professional development opportunities and other services.

Digital Learning Day held
In February, eight Ohio Educational Technology agencies participated virtually in Digital Learning Day, a national initiative and collaboration with INFOhio.

Presentations included delivery of a YouTube Live program to teachers across the state and nationally. Western Reserve Public Media staff delivered sessions on SmartPath Financial Literacy resources and Thrively, an online tool to measure student success in the classroom.

CYBERCHASE Text to Teach
Western Reserve PBS and nine other PBS stations received a grant to work in collaboration with New York PBS affiliate WNET on the CYBERCHASE Text to Teacher project. Using the award-winning PBS Kids program CYBERCHASE, teachers in grades 1-3 receive four weeks of educational resources delivered via text to their mobile phones. The project also provides training materials and support for an after-school event where teachers learn how to integrate the show’s resources into their curriculum.
Trina Cutter’s recent activities

On March 6, President and CEO Trina Cutter attended Stark Forum: Inspiring our Future, in which a panel of local elected officials help to inspire a vibrant future for Stark County.

From April 3-5, she attended General Manager’s Day at PBS TechCon, right before the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) annual meeting.

On April 11, Cutter attended her first Ohio Women’s Veterans Advisory Committee meeting in Sunbury, Ohio.

On April 26, she led a group of six people in Leadership Stark County’s first Civic Ideation Sprint. This project is the result of the 31st class using knowledge and perspectives gained throughout the year to develop and grow ideas that will help Stark County respond to challenges and expand on opportunities.

Anthony Dennis attends conferences

Anthony Dennis, chief technology officer, attended PBS TechCon 2018 in Las Vegas in early April. Sessions covered the capabilities of NextGen TV, digital media, and video over IP.

Dennis also attended NAB Show 2018, held in Las Vegas in April. The conference is sponsored by the National Association of Broadcasters.

Jeff Good attends diversity conference

Jeff Good attended Coming Together Stark County’s Diversity and Inclusion Conference, which was held in April. The conference, whose focus was “LGBTQ Super Powers and Super Challenges,” was held at Stark State University in Canton.

On March 22, Chief Technology Officer Tony Dennis hosted a demonstration of products offered by West Coast company Bitcentral. Employees from Ohio television stations WBGU and WOUB, plus several of our staff members, attended the event. The featured products included news production systems, master control and automation software and more.

Oh, the places you’ll go!

Staff members participated in the annual Read Across America event held in March in honor of Dr. Seuss. Heather Smith read to classes at Summit Academy in Warren, while both Smith and Jeff Good read selected Dr. Seuss books at SouthSide Academy in Youngstown.