The PBS Western Reserve President’s Report is published for the Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio Inc. Board of Directors, major funders of the station and other community members interested in the organization’s activities.

Spring 2022
Volume 16, Issue 2

Programming & Local Productions
Community Outreach
Educational Services
Staff News

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MONUMENTAL DEVOTION
The McKinley National Memorial

New documentary showcases McKinley National Memorial
The PBS Western Reserve documentary MONUMENTAL DEVOTION: THE MCKINLEY NATIONAL MEMORIAL premiered on Tuesday, May 10. It tells of the public’s admiration of President William McKinley, plus his loving relationship with his wife. It centers on McKinley’s life as president and, ultimately, the construction of a monument in Canton, Ohio, for his final resting place.

The documentary introduces the human side of McKinley, a Civil War veteran and attorney who married the love of his life, the highly educated and gifted Ida McKinley. Together the couple endured the tragic loss of two young daughters and the challenges of Ida’s serious illnesses.

Throughout the production we see evidence of devotion to President McKinley. One striking place is in the reported gratitude of some of the memorial workers—former slaves who wanted to contribute to the legacy of a president who fought for the North and opened the military to Black soldiers in the Spanish-American War. We can appreciate the workers’ efforts as we explore a part of the monument the public never sees: the formidable steps between the inner and outer domes that lead to a breathtaking view of Canton.

Station hosts MONUMENTAL DEVOTION community events
In celebration of the premiere of the new PBS Western Reserve documentary MONUMENTAL DEVOTION: THE MCKINLEY NATIONAL MEMORIAL, free sneak previews of the production were held at McKinley Memorial Library and Timken Career Center. More than 100 people attended the events.
Local productions accepted for national distribution

Four programs that PBS Western Reserve submitted to the American Public Television Exchange for national distribution have been accepted. APT Exchange chooses programming from both public television stations and independent producers through a voting system conducted with affiliated stations’ programmers. Programs need at least 24 affirmative votes to be accepted into national distribution, and each of the PBS Western Reserve submittals received more than 240 votes!

The accepted programs are: NICK CAVE: SUMMIT LAKE HEARD; BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: JOURNEY TO CANTON; LINES BROKEN: THE STORY OF MARION MOTLEY; and TRAINING FOR FREEDOM. They will be available in the markets nationwide that accepted them in early May.

In addition, three of the programs—NICK CAVE: SUMMIT LAKE HEARD; BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME: JOURNEY TO CANTON; and LINES BROKEN: THE STORY OF MARION MOTLEY—have been nominated for Great Lakes Regional Emmy awards.

Events complement BENJAMIN FRANKLIN series

Virtual and in-person outreach events related to the Ken Burns documentary BENJAMIN FRANKLIN are underway through a grant provided by WETA. They include the following:

- Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning Valley discussed books for adults and teens related to Ben Franklin on March 22.

- A documentary discussion on March 29 with Traci Manning from Mahoning Valley Historical Society focusing on Ben Franklin’s accomplishments.

- On March 26 and April 2, virtual and in-person events in collaboration with Oh Wow! The Roger and Gloria Jones Children’s Center for Science & Technology and Public Library—Canfield Branch. Participants learned about Ben Franklin’s accomplishments and made kites and paper airplanes.

- The culminating event, Let’s Go Fly a Kite with PBS Western Reserve, to take place at the Public Library of Youngstown’s main branch outdoor space on Saturday, June 18.

Molly of Denali comes to Massillon Museum

On April 9, PBS Western Reserve co-hosted Molly of Denali Day at Massillon Museum to accompany the museum’s “Un-settling: A Story of Land Removal and Resistance” exhibition. The event included a free screening of two episodes of the PBS Kids show MOLLY OF DENALI plus a meet-and-greet with Molly. More than 130 people attended the free event.

Be My Neighbor Day

More than 150 people attended Be My Neighbor Day at the main branch of the Stark County Library on March 12. Daniel Tiger greeted guests, and families received Be My Neighbor Day bags as well as Cyberchase—Green It Up packets. Additional Be My Neighbor Days are being scheduled for July in Akron and September in Youngstown.

Station hosts Cyberchase—Green It Up initiative

PBS Western Reserve will participate in the Cyberchase—Green It Up initiative for a second summer. This project is designed to inspire an appreciation for nature, build STEM skills and help children feel empowered to be environmental stewards. It includes 13 hands-on modules designed to help students explore the environment, build critical thinking skills and take action in their communities.

Themes include food waste, gardening, composting, pollinators, deforestation, migration and more. In-person sessions will take place at various library sites in Mahoning and Stark counties as well as the Oh Wow! children’s museum in Youngstown.
Remote learning project wins national award

A video project created by PBS Western Reserve for educators’ use won an award at the 53rd Annual Public Media Awards Gala, held virtually at the 2022 NETA Conference in January.

The project, Remote Learning K-3, won in the Division 2 category Educational Resources for the Classroom. It includes six videos and offers educators tips on developing remote learning strategies, implementing Ohio learning standards, engaging students and more.

The videos feature K-3 educators from throughout the PBS Western Reserve viewing area who share their experiences and strategies for meeting remote learning challenges. Educators can access the video project free of charge at https://www.pbswesternreserve.org/education/remote-learning-k3.

Teacher training continues

Ten teacher professional development classes—self-paced online and virtual—are being offered in June and into the summer.

Two more webinars for “Closing the Pandemic Learning Gap in Ohio’s Schools” were broadcast live online in February and March. They focused on how middle schools and high schools are addressing the learning gap created by the pandemic. The project, funded through BEMC in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education, also features additional podcasts related to the webinar.

All webinars and podcasts will be housed on the project website, https://www.pbswesternreserve.org/education/closing-the-pandemic-learning-gap.

Students to benefit from Ohio Learns 360 program

PBS Western Reserve will be working with local summer and after-school programs to address disruptions to learning caused during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new initiative, called Ohio Learns 360, is a partnership between Ohio’s eight PBS stations and the Ohio Department of Education.

Ohio Learns 360, which targets students in kindergarten through fifth grade, offers programs with PBS resources that include standards-based curriculum and materials, virtual field trips, interactive video programs, community events and more. The program will continue through September 2024.

Rev Up Rays Of Sunshine With Your Vehicle Donation!

Call 844-347-4549 or visit PBSWesternReserve.org/car-donation to get started!
Staff News

**Marybeth Gibbons named interim membership manager**

Marybeth Gibbons, who has worked for PBS Western Reserve for eight years in both the Membership and Production departments, accepted the position of interim membership manager on March 1.

**Sophia Gillespie begins station internship**

In April Sophia Gillespie joined the Production Department as an intern. A senior this fall at Kent State University, Gillespie is majoring in digital media production with a minor in anthropology. She is interested in documentary film production and aspires to be a professional film maker. Welcome, Sophia!

**Jeff Good conducts media workshops**

Jeff Good, chief education technology officer, conducted the virtual sessions “Making Media for Classroom Use,” which assisted teachers in creating audio and video that can be used in remote classroom applications. Held in March, the sessions related to the PBS Media Literacy Academy and were presented by the Ohio Educational Technology Agencies.

**Kimberly Holm participates in career development**

Kimberly Holm, chief marketing officer, recently completed Content Marketing Institute’s CMI University, the content marketing industry’s premier online education and training program.

Holm also is part of the Spring 2022 cohort of Digital Immersion, a professional development opportunity developed by PBS that mixes in-depth virtual trainings, immersive experiences, hands-on workshops and collaborative mentorship to improve overall expertise in digital strategies and tactics.

**Stephanie Virgallito participates in Leadership Stark County program**

Stephanie Virgallito, social media audience and community builder, was selected to participate in Leadership Stark County’s Spotlight Program, which is a course for young professionals to enhance leadership potential and gain exposure to community leaders and organizations.

**Randy Lipscomb speaks to Canton Chamber**

In April, Randy Lipscomb, account executive, was one of only two members of the 35th class of Leadership Stark County to share with Canton Chamber of Commerce members what being part of that experience has meant to him.