

**WERE-AM  
Cleveland Heights, OH**

**QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT  
1st QUARTER, 2024  
January – February - March**

**In our ongoing effort to serve the public interest, station WERE-AM broadcasts programming responsive to issues of concern to the Greater Cleveland listening area. Following is a list of those issues, and of the station's most significant programming treatment of them**

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Programming/Production Director

**WERE-AM  
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OH**

**Quarterly List of Programming Responsive to Issues of  
Community Concern  
1st Quarter 2024  
January, February and March**

**WERE-AM addressed many issues of concern as well as responsive programming in the first quarter. They are as follows.**

**Categories**

**Consumer Issues:** Representatives from consumer groups appeared on WERE, with information on utility pricing, scams to avoid and other issues. This information can help the listener to make better decisions as a consumer.

**Local Economy:** Numerous guests discussed various aspects of the local economy, from projects intended to bring jobs to the area to discussions of the city and state budgets. Awareness of employment opportunities and programs can help the listener.

**Health and Well-Being:** WERE programs often feature physicians and other health professionals from a variety of disciplines, sharing information to help listeners live healthier lives. Also included: Environmental concerns

**Legal Issues:** Some WERE programs are hosted by, or feature guests who are local attorneys, with shows dedicated to educating the listener on a myriad of topics relating to their legal rights. An informed listener is better able to navigate the legal system, and is more aware of assistance available to them.

**Social Issues:** Discussions of parenting methods, assistance programs for low-income, and homeless persons and former convicts, racial profiling.

**Diversity:** Several broadcasts on the topic of diversity as related to employment and education, as well as racial and other forms of profiling

**Politics:** WERE often features elected officials and candidates running for various offices, discussing a wide variety of topics of local interest. A listener who is more aware of political issues is better able to vote in their best interests.

**Creative Arts:** Guests discuss their work in various creative arts, from acting, writing, and musical performance to visual and multimedia work, as well as programs designed to expose people to the arts and get them involved

**Issue: Local Economy, Politics**

**January 2, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**12 minutes**

Guest: Pat Gallagher, President, North Coast Area Labor Federation, discussed his concerns over the purchase of US Steel by the Japanese company, Nippon Steel. The purchasing company has not been transparent with their plans, and Mr. Gallagher fears that US Steel may become a shell company. He also expressed concern over the national security and anti-dumping implications of the purchase. 12 minutes, 4:15-4:27PM

**Issue: Diversity, Politics**

**January 5, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**12 minutes**

Guest: Fred Redmond, Secretary/Treasurer, AFL-CIO, discussed the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Day Conference, with the theme of taking control of the future. Conference speakers will discuss saving democracy in the upcoming election, fighting for an equitable country, and voting for candidates who support workers. He also discussed the importance of the civil rights and labor movements to work together on their common goals. 12 minutes, 4:43-4:55PM

**Issue: Politics**

**January 11, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**6 minutes**

Guest: Senator Sherrod Brown discussed a letter he co-authored with 32 of his Senate colleagues addressed to non-union auto manufacturers after the announcement by the United Auto Workers to target those facilities. The Senators urged neutrality in the face of potential unionization efforts. 6 minutes, 4:45-4:51PM

**Issue: Politics, Social Issues**

**January 19, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**11 minutes**

Guest: Norm Wernet, State Director, Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans, discussed efforts to fix Ohio's gerrymandered congressional districts. Ohio's districts have been determined in multiple court cases to be illegal, but without an acceptable redistricting plan, the old districts remain in place. He also talked about presidential candidates seeking to raise the retirement age. He points out that for every year the retirement age is raised, workers lose approx. 20% of their benefits, which are never recouped. Over time, this will harm the overall economy. 11 minutes, 4:44-4:55PM

**Issue: Politics, Health and Well-Being**

**February 1, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**27 minutes**

Guest: Eddie Hall, President, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen discussed growing concerns with train safety one year after the tragic events in East Palestine OH. He believes that "Precision Scheduled Railroading" (PSR) has had a damaging effect on the industry through reduced safety inspections and less time to do them, longer shifts for operators and longer train lengths, all in pursuit of profit. 27 minutes, 4:11-4:23PM and 4:25-4:40PM

**Issue: Politics, Social Issues, Diversity**

**February 2, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**14 minutes**

Guest: Fred Redmond, Secretary-Treasurer, AFL-CIO, discussed his participation in the annual Martin Luther King Unity Brunch and the AFL-CIO's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Civil and Human Rights conference. He also talked about an AFL-CIO article outlining a just response to migrant workers and their vulnerability to exploitation. 14 minutes, 4:41-4:55PM

**Issue: Local Economy, Politics**

**February 5, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**14 minutes**

Guest: Patrick Hook, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 683 (IBEW) discussed changes in their apprenticeship program and new training methods taught to address the transition to green energy. He also discussed the tech boom in Central Ohio, with numerous datacenters and an integrated circuit plant under construction and the need for trained electrical workers. 11 minutes, 4:44-4:55PM

**Issue: Local Economy, Diversity**

**February 8, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**17 minutes**

Guest: Darla Reed trainer with the International Assoc. of Heat and Frost Insulators discussed her experiences as a woman in the construction trades, the challenges she faced, and the support provided by the union. She also discussed her work in developing training materials and programs to encourage women to join the trades. 17 minutes, 4:13-4:30PM

**Issue: Diversity, Social Issues**

**February 12, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**24 minutes**

Guest: Fedrick Ingram, Secretary treasurer, American Federation of Teachers, discussed the significance of diversity in schools. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives do more than make the hiring numbers look good. They help more students to be included in the educational process and create better opportunities for positive outcomes. 24 minutes, 4:14-4:27PM and 4:29-4:40PM

**Issue: Diversity, Social Issues**

**February 16, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**13 minutes**

Guest: Robert Roach Jr., President, Alliance for Retired Americans, discussed his career in working up to becoming the first African American Secretary-Treasurer of the international Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and his efforts to promote diversity in the union, which served as a template for other unions to do the same. 13 minutes, 4:42-4:55PM

**Issue: Local Economy**

**February 20, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**9 minutes**

Guest: Carl Kriss, director, discussed his documentary film, "Relighting the Flame", which focuses on the fall and comeback of the steel industry in Northeast Ohio. 9 minutes, 4:46-4:55PM

**Issue: Social Issues, Politics**

**February 27, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**25 minutes**

Guest: Princess Moss, Vice Pres., National Education Assoc., discussed her time as a teacher in Virginia that led to her work in the union after seeking to help her fellow teachers. She also discussed the difficult and often disrespectful conditions facing teachers today, leading to teachers deciding to leave the profession, and what can be done to alleviate these issues. 25 minutes, 4:08-4:18PM and 4:20-4:35PM

**Issue: Social Issues, Local Economy**

**March 6, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**12 minutes**

Guests: Dave Meganhardt, Exec. Director of the United Labor Agency and Alicia Boreman, Clinical Director of the ULA's Counseling Center, discussed the new mental health counseling center and other services the ULA is providing to area workers. 12 minutes, 4:43-4:55PM

**Issue: Social Issues, Local Economy**

**March 7, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**14 minutes**

Guest: Reid Maki, Child Labor Advocacy Director for the Child Labor Coalition, discussed his organization's work in 2023 to prevent bills from being passed that would weaken child labor laws, and their reporting on child labor violations. Some of these bills would allow children to work overnight shifts or to work in roofing, which was responsible for 16 adult deaths in 2023. 14 minutes, 4:41-4:55PM

**Issue: Local Economy**

**March 8, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**17 minutes**

Guest: Thom Kay, Program Manager for Energy Transition with the Blue Green Alliance discussed the hardships faced by coal mining communities as green energy reduces the need for fossil fuels, and some of the programs and initiatives designed to help these communities to find training and employment. 17 minutes, 4:11-4:28PM

**Issue: Politics**

**March 12, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**11 minutes**

Guest: Tim Burga, President, Ohio AFL-CIO, discussed continuing efforts to create an independent committee to create fair and competitive voting districts. Ohio districting had been found to be unconstitutional, but, through unwillingness or inability, a new plan hasn't materialized, so the old, illegal districting remains in place. 11 minutes, 4:14-4:25PM

**Issue: Health and Well-Being**

**March 23, 2024**

**Program: Public Health Matters**

**52 Minutes**

**Hosts: Kevin Brennan, Communications Director, and Suzanne Hrusch, Program Manager, Cuyahoga County Board of Health**

Guests: Angela Henderson, Program Manager and Michelle Benko, Supervisor, both with the Cuyahoga Co. Board of Health, presented a wife-ranging discussion on prenatal and postnatal health, from steps that potential mothers can take to best prepare their bodies for gestation and birth, to infant care. Also discussed: some of the programs and services provided by the CCBH for pregnant mothers and young parents. 52 minutes, 12:00Noon-12:52PM

**Issue: Diversity**

**March 25, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**10 minutes**

Guest: Rachel Leblance, trainer, United Association Veterans in Piping program, discussed her experience transitioning out of the military and into a career as a pipefitter with the help of the Department of Defense's SkillBridge program, leading to her position as the first female trainer in the UAVIP's training program. 10 minutes, 4:15-4:25PM

**Issue: Consumer Issues**

**March 26, 2024**

**Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc**

**17 minutes**

Guest: Tom Buffenbarger, former president, International Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, discussed recent safety issues with Boeing aircraft, and his belief that the focus in recent years on profit over safety by Boeing leadership is directly responsible for the issues today. 17 minutes, 4:35-4:47PM and 4:50-4:55

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

[STATION] airs a variety of Public Service Announcements in unsold commercial avails on a wide assortment of topics of community interest. A description of some of these announcements follows:

**Caregiver Assistance:** Discusses some of the difficulties a family caregiver might experience, and directs the listener to a section of the AARP website with resources that may be able to assist. (:15 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through February 17)

**Gynecological Cancer Awareness:** Discusses the importance of being aware of one's body, and that certain changes may be signs of gynecological cancers and should be brought to the attention of a physician. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Teens and Marijuana:** Discusses the deleterious effects of using marijuana among teens, under the current scenario of increased legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana use. (:60 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Adult Vaccinations:** Discusses the advantages of adults receiving vaccinations, including, but not limited to, the flu vaccine. (:60 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Indoor Allergens:** Discusses common indoor allergens and directs listeners to a website with information on reducing their impact. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Voices for Recovery:** Gives information on referrals for treatment for mental health and substance abuse disorders (:20 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Childhood Asthma:** Directs listeners to a website with information on prevention and treatment of childhood asthma. (:20 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**National Fair Housing Alliance:** A series of PSAs that discuss a number of discriminatory housing practices based on national origin, disability, sex, race, color, religion or familial status. (:60 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Gun Storage Safety:** Directs listeners to information regarding safe gun storage, and discusses statistics of accidental death as a result of guns not being safely stored. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

**Social Security Administration:** A series of PSAs discussing what SS beneficiaries can do on the Social Security website (planning, apply for benefits, check account, etc.) (:15 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

CDC – Antibiotic Usage: Provides information on proper use of antibiotics, and when antibiotics are and are not appropriate to use. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly January 1 through March 31)

CDC – HIV Awareness: Points listeners to the CDC website for detailed information regarding HIV prevention and lessening the stigma of those afflicted by the disease. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

BrightFocus Foundation: Encourages listeners to get regular eye exams to detect early stage macular degeneration, which often starts without obvious symptoms. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

Saving for Retirement: Message directs African American women to a website with information about saving for retirement. (:15 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

CDC/COVID-19: Message discusses the basic hygiene that will help to diminish the spread of coronavirus. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times weekly, January 1 through March 31)

Empowering Girls in STEM: Discusses projects and experiments that young ladies can do at home in an effort to encourage and foster interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)

Distracted Driving Prevention: Presents short vignettes that demonstrate the dangers of driving while distracted by cell phone activity. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)

High School Equivalency: Discusses the value of finishing one's high school education via adult learning/GED classes. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)

Fatherhood Involvement: Discusses the benefits of fathers being involved with their children. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)

Buzzed Driving Prevention: Talks about the dangers of even moderate intoxication while operating a motor vehicle. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)

Type 2 Diabetes Awareness: Discusses the importance of early diagnosis of pre-diabetes and lifestyle changes that can prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, January 1 through March 31)