

**WERE-AM
Cleveland Heights, OH**

**QUARTERLY ISSUES AND PROGRAMS REPORT
4th QUARTER, 2023
October – November – December**

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
4th Quarter 2023
October, November and December

WERE-AM addressed many issues of concern as well as responsive programming in the fourth 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: Legal Issues, Politics**October 3, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****10 minutes**

Guest: Tim Burga, President, Ohio AFL-CIO, discussed the upcoming election, particularly Issue 1, which would make an amendment to the State constitution to enshrine women's reproductive rights. He also discussed efforts to appoint a neutral board to determine Ohio's congressional districts, taking away that power from the Ohio legislature. The legislature's districting has been found to be illegal on 7 different occasions, but without an alternative, those districts stand. 10 minutes, 4:45-4:55PM

Issue: Social Issues, Health and Well-Being, Diversity**October 5, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****11 minutes**

Guest: Robert Espinoza, Executive VP for Policy, Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) discussed the work of his organization, which is to ensure quality care for older adults and people with disabilities by creating quality jobs for direct care workers. 11 minutes, 4:44-4:55PM

Issue: Politics, Local Economy**October 9, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****5 minutes**

Guest: Sen. Sherrod Brown discussed the need for greater worker protections in the textile and electric vehicle industries. He feels that this will go a long way to keep these industries in the US. 5 minutes, 4:11-4:16PM

Issue: Health and Well-Being**October 9, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****20 minutes**

Guest: Sarah Lazare, Editor, Workday Magazine, discussed her recent article about repetitive motion injuries in auto workers. A considerable amount of these injuries go unreported, due to fear of retaliation from the employer and the difficulty in proving injuries are work-related. She hopes that greater awareness of these injuries would bring greater oversight and improvements in procedures. 20 minutes, 4:18-4:28 and 4:30-4:40PM

Issue: Health and Well-Being**October 11, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****24 minutes**

Guest: Travis Parsons, Director of Occupational Safety and Health, Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America, talked about the warning signs of hearing loss and ways to protect against it. One in four construction trades workers have some level of hearing loss, but other industries can have destructive effects on hearing. He believes that greater awareness, suitable protection, and sound level measurement is crucial in protecting workers' hearing. 24 minutes, 4:14-4:26 and 4:28-4:40PM

Issue: Social Issues, Diversity**October 17, 2023****Program: America's Work Force Host: Ed "Flash" Ferenc****23 minutes**

Guest: Melissa Cropper, President, Ohio Federation of Teachers, discussed recent legislation that took decision-making authority from the Ohio State Board of Education and giving it to the newly formed Department of Education and Workforce, controlled directly by the governor. A lawsuit to overturn this committee, started by Board of Education members and then joined by parents' groups is intended to reverse this change on the grounds of unconstitutionality. She also discussed the conservative book-banning efforts, and her belief that limiting access to books and information is harmful. 23 minutes, 4:15-4:26 and 4:28-4:40PM

Issue: Social Issues, Diversity

October 18, 2023

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

12 minutes

Guest: Charles Straley, member, Ironworkers Local 172, discussed his experiences as an ex-convict in joining the Building Futures Registered Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Through the program, he was able to learn a trade, get a good job, get his first drivers' license and start a family. He now shares his success story with those in similar situations and helps to recruit new prospects to the program to enjoy the opportunities that have helped him to thrive. 12 minutes, 4:43-4:55PM

Issue: Politics, Health and Well-Being

October 23, 2023

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

13 minutes

Guest: Greg Regan, President, Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, discussed the Rail Safety Act 2023. While he admits that it's not a perfect bill, he feels it would go a long way in improving rail transportation safety, particularly by setting minimum safety inspection standards. Currently, the average time for railcar inspections is 45 seconds. 13 minutes, 4:42-4:55PM

Issue: Local Economy. Diversity

October 25, 2023

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

13 minutes

Guest: Gina Walsh, committee member, Tradeswomen Builds Nations, discussed their upcoming conference, the largest gathering of tradeswomen. There will be workshops on dealing with work site intimidation, women-specific safety equipment, and ways for allies to support women in the trades. 13 minutes, 4:42-4:55PM

Issue: Health and Well-Being

November 9, 2023

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

23 minutes

Guest: Jacob Lindahl, lead organizer, Service Employees International Union Healthcare Pennsylvania, discussed the growing privatization efforts in PA nursing homes. With their roots in caring for Civil War veterans, county-run nursing homes played an essential part in the social safety net. Now, many of these facilities are being bought by private equity firms, which slash staffing, reduce services, and eventually close the facilities. 23 minutes, 4:14-4:27 and 4:29-4:39PM

Issue: Local Economy

November 10, 2023

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

15 minutes

Guest: Sean Ellis, Political Director, United Agency Local #230, discussed his experience with the UA's Veterans in Piping program, which helped him to find a career after his military service. 15 minutes, 4:40-4:55PM

Issue: Local Economy, Creative Arts

November 13, 2023

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

15 minutes

Guest: Leonard DiCosimo, President, American Federation of Musicians Local #4, discussed the Cleveland Orchestra's new contract, which included a substantial wage increase, a \$5000 bonus to offset the years that the orchestra didn't receive a proper pay increase, and improvements to healthcare and touring issues. 15 minutes, 4:40-4:55PM

Issue: Local Economy

November 15, 2023

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

11 minutes

Guest: Garrett Giglio, Training Coordinator, Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local #53 discussed the operation of the apprenticeship program. 15 minutes, 4:44-4:55PM

Issue: Local Economy, Health and Well-Being

November 17, 2023

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

9 minutes

Guest: Rich Fiesta, Executive Director, Alliance for Retired Americans, discussed the current operations of the House of Representatives, pointing out that several bills that he describes as "common sense" are not able to proceed through the House due to partisan gridlock. He is hoping for progressive wins in the next election to get some movement on these issues. 9 minutes, 4:46-4:55PM

Issue: Local Economy

November 20, 2023

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

27 minutes

Guest: Jeff Stoffer, Director, American Legion Media and Communications Division discussed two recent articles in American Legion magazine. The first dealt with the impact of artificial intelligence (AI). While there are dangers if AI is used irresponsibly, he feels that not moving forward with AI assistance in government could have deleterious effects on the US position in the world and labor and careers in industry and military jobs. The second article he discussed dealt with improvements in mental health care for veterans. 27 minutes, 4:14-4:27 and 4:29-4:43PM

Issue: Local Economy

November 21, 2023

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

17 minutes

Guest: Melissa Cropper, President, Ohio Federation of teachers, discussed the OFT's support of the Columbus/Central Ohio workforce hub designated by the Biden administration. This designation means the area will be the beneficiary of funding through the Infrastructure and CHIPS acts, bringing good jobs to the area. This will require education to bring area residents up to speed for these jobs, and the OFT stands ready to support that. 17 minutes, 4:16-4:33PM

Issue: Local Economy, Social Issues

November 21, 2023

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

18 minutes

Guest: Melissa Wells, Special Assistant to the President, North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) discussed the growing awareness that the trades are a path to the middle class, evident in the growth of pre-apprenticeship programs. She also discussed NABTU's upcoming Tradeswomen Build Nations conference in December, the nation's largest gathering of women in construction. 18 minutes, 4:35-4:43 and 4:45-4:55PM

Issue: Health and Well-Being

November 25, 2023

Program: Public Health Matters

55 Minutes

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

Guest: Leigh Goldie, Founder and Executive Director, Empowering Epilepsy, discussed the work of her organization to educate those with epilepsy and their loved ones on the disease, and what they can do to take control of their lives by providing free or low-cost programs, services, resources and support. She also discussed her personal experience with epilepsy, the different causes and manifestations of epilepsy, and how to help an individual experiencing a seizure. 55 minutes, 12:00Noon-12:55PM

Issue: Local Economy, Social Issues

November 27, 2023

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

22 minutes

Guest: Estefania Galvez, National Organizing Director, One Fair Wage, discussed her organization's work to end the existence of a minimum wage, both at the state and federal levels, replacing it with a livable national wage. 22 minutes, 4:18-4:30 and 4:32-4:42PM

Issue: Politics, Social Issues

November 29, 2023

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

25 minutes

Guest: Jeff Horwitz, CEO, The SAFE Project, discussed the work of his organization to help ensure people who need help with addiction or other mental health issues can be provided with resources. The SAFE project has 3 units, one dealing specifically with the military, a second with college and university students, and a third, concerned with businesses and the trades. This allows The SAFE Project to tailor their message and resources to each group's needs. 25 minutes, 4:16-4:20 and 4:32-4:43PM

Issue: Local Economy, Politics

December 8, 2023

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

5 minutes

Guest: Sen. Sherrod Brown discussed a proposed expansion to Amtrak in Ohio While Amtrak crisscrosses the country, it isn't a viable daily option for those outside of the Northeastern US. The expansion would make Amtrak more accessible to more potential users, and create jobs. 5 minutes, 4:14-4:19PM

Issue: Social Issues

December 13, 2023

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

24 minutes

Guest: Zeph Capo, President, Texas American Federation of Teachers, discussed the Strive to Thrive project, a study of work-related issue experienced by Texas public school teachers. The study found that 1 in 5 work an additional job, many are asked to do work beyond their job description, and teachers pay an average of \$68/week out of their pocket for supplies that schools will not provide, and parents cannot afford. 24 minutes, 4:14-4:26PM and 4:29-4:41PM

Issue: Health and Well-Being

December 23, 2023

Program: Public Health Matters

55 Minutes

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

No guest this month, but Kevin and Suzanne presented a discussion of food safety, with an eye towards the upcoming holidays. They gave specific instructions on proper temperature control, whether hot food or cold, cleanliness in preparation and serving, avoiding cross contamination when preparing food, what to watch for in restaurants, and a few stories of when things went wrong. 55 minutes, 12:00Noon-12:55PM

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WERE-AM 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, October 1 through December 31)

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, October 1 through December 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, October 1 through December 31)

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

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

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

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

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

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: Encourages listeners to support research into juvenile leukemia and Lymphoma. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, October 1 through December 31)

Alliance for the Great Lakes: Encourages listeners to volunteer to clean the beaches on the shore of Lake Erie (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, October 1 through December 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, December 25 through December 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, December 25 through December 31)

Fatherhood Involvement: Discusses the benefits of fathers being involved with their children. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, December 25 through December 31)

Buzzed Driving Prevention: Talks about the dangers of even moderate intoxication while operating a motor vehicle. (:30 seconds, airs 3+ times daily, December 25 through December 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, December 25 through December 31)