



news release

Contact: Diane Steinert, Communications Coordinator
330-677-4549 or dsteinert@WesternReservePublicMedia.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Western Reserve Public Media Station Manager Bill O'Neil Announces Retirement

Has worked in the broadcast industry for more than 40 years

KENT, OHIO — Thursday, June 9, 2011 — Bill O'Neil, Western Reserve Public Media station manager, has announced that he will retire on June 30. He has worked at the station since 2003 and in the broadcast industry for more than 40 years, most significantly at WAKR-TV 23 for 31 years.

At Western Reserve Public Media (WNEO/WEOA), O'Neil was hired to supervise the station's administrative, accounting and personnel functions. In 2006, he was named manager of Engineering/IT Services and in 2008, he was appointed station manager.

O'Neil is a native of Akron, Ohio, and a 1968 graduate of the University of Notre Dame. He began working at WAKR shortly after graduation as producer/director. During his tenure there, he also served as production manager, operations manager and program director. He also worked at Canton's WOAC-TV as general manager from 1999 to 2003.

"The first time I met Bill, he informed me that he was a fellow graduate of Notre Dame," said Trina Cutter, Western Reserve Public Media president and CEO. "I nearly hired him on the spot! Employing him has been one of the best decisions I have ever made."

O'Neil has been a member of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Catholic Youth Organization and Civic Forum of the Air. He is currently a member of the Greater Akron Audubon Society,

-more-



Cuyahoga Falls Amateur Radio Club, Arthritis Foundation, Society of Broadcast Engineers, American Radio Relay League and Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. He has a lifelong love of photography, camping, birding and amateur radio.

##

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.