



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Board Positions Announced for Western Reserve Public Media

*Renee Pipitone to assume chair; Mark Auburn completes
term as first-ever community board chair*

KENT, OHIO — Wednesday, June 8, 2011 — Lifelong Akron-area resident and community volunteer Renee Pipitone was elected chair of the board of directors at the Tuesday, June 7, annual meeting of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, which owns and operates Western Reserve Public Media in Kent. Pipitone replaces Mark Auburn, who has led the board since 2007 and was the first community volunteer ever to serve as chair for the organization. Auburn, who has been a member of the board since 1998, will continue serving as a general board member.

Pipitone received her bachelor's degree from The University of Akron and her master's degree from Youngstown State University. She is very active in civic affairs, serving as executive vice-president of Akron Symphony Orchestra; trustee for United Disability Services, Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens and Summit County Historical Society; and volunteer for many other community organizations.

"Mark Auburn made history at Western Reserve Public Media by becoming the first community volunteer to serve as board chair," said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of Western Reserve Public Media. "Previously, the chair was always a university president. Renee Pipitone, a very dedicated community volunteer, continues the trend and is a passionate advocate of our organization. I look forward to working with her as she leads the board."

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Also elected to leadership positions on the board were Brian DePoy, vice chair, and David Hunter, secretary. DePoy is dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts at Youngstown State University. He holds music degrees from Indiana University and the University of Mexico, and a doctorate in Music Performance from Florida State University. Hunter is a partner at Brouse McDowell legal professional association. He earned an undergraduate degree from Princeton University in economics and law degrees from New York University School of Law and The University of Akron School of Law.

Completing two-year appointments on the board are Jim Cossler, CEO/chief evangelist of the Youngstown Business Incubator, and Barbara O'Malley, associate vice president for communications and chief communications officer at The University of Akron. New appointments to their vacant positions will be named at a later date. The outgoing board members were formally recognized at the June 7 meeting of the board of directors, which will be held at 3:30 p.m. in the offices of Western Reserve Public Media, 1750 Campus Center Dr., Kent. The meeting is open to the public.

Western Reserve Public Media operates under one 501(c)(3) corporation, Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc. (NETO). A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of noncommercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. For more information, visit WesternReservePBS.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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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.