



December 11, 2008

Welcome to the new season of the Northeast Ohio Labor and Employment Relations Association (LERA). Having focused so much energy and attention on the election during this past fall (and now the holiday season), we will kick off our first program on **Tuesday, January 13, 2009** at the new Doubletree Hotel Downtown Cleveland/Lakeside (formerly the Holiday Inn Lakeside), 1111 Lakeside Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44114. Cocktails at 5:30 pm; dinner at 6:15 pm; speaker at 7:00 pm.

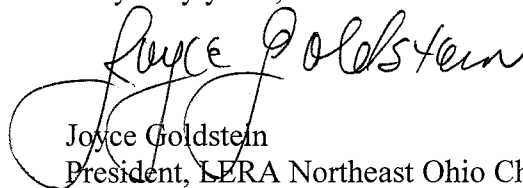
Our speaker will be **Robert S. Ditillo**, Director of Mediation Services for the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service, Ohio and West Virginia Sub-region who will discuss the F.M.C.S. mission in providing assistance to the labor and management community in workplace conflict resolution and the establishment of collaborative relationships. Mr. Ditillo will also include in his presentation a discussion of the different FMCS services offered and some of the "Hot Topics" confronted by their mediators at the bargaining table.

A big change with LERA this year is our move to become more electronic and less dependent on paper and (volunteer) administrative services. We will start using Evite (electronic invitations) for our programs in conjunction with PayPal to pay for the dinners. If you are receiving this letter by email, you will soon be receiving an Evite to our January 13th meeting. When you get the Evite, please respond – hopefully by indicating that you will be attending – and also use the PayPal link to pay for the dinner. If you are receiving this letter in hard copy, please send me your email address (jgoldstein@ggcounsel.com) so we can communicate electronically with you in the future. We hope that this new system will reduce paper, postage and the need for staff time. Please bear with us if it takes a couple of times to work out the kinks. As an incentive to use the new system, if you pay with the PayPal link, the charge is \$35.00, but if you pay at the door or mail a check the charge is \$40.00.

For now, membership renewal will still be done the old-fashioned way. Please complete the Membership Renewal form and mail your check back to our Treasurer, Anna DuVal Smith at P.O. Box 22229, Cleveland OH 44122-0229.

Hope you have a happy and health holiday season! Please mark your calendar and look out for your Evite to the January 13th program!

Very truly yours,



Joyce Goldstein
President, LERA Northeast Ohio Chapter