



My name is Tonya Busic. I grew up near Dayton, Ohio, the middle of 5 children. Life was great, with lots of kids in the neighborhood. We followed the old rule to leave the house in the morning and not come home until the street lights came on. In the winter we skated on our neighbor's pond; in the summer, we walked to, what we called, "the little store" (now I know it was a great place to pick up beer); But the best was exploring the woods behind the houses. This was where are imagination could take flight.



After high school, I attended Wilmington College, a small liberal arts school in SW Ohio, where I majored in math and accounting, with a minor in computer science. I had great opportunities at this school, and even got to attend the University of Vienna for a quarter.

Upon graduating, I moved to Cleveland to work at Progressive Insurance (previously, my only visit to Cleveland had been the bus depot; I was not impressed).

After 25 years, I took some time off working and watched my sister's kids after school. I also joined a group that, unfortunately, disbanded several years ago – Single Volunteers of NE Ohio. It was a great opportunity to meet other singles and support area charities.



One day, my nephew went on a field trip. A friend told me I would enjoy volunteering there. She was right. I started as a volunteer at the Lake County History Center's Pioneer School. When the head of the program moved to Texas, I agreed to finish out the last 2 weeks of the program for her. That was over 12 years ago. Today, I run both youth and adult education programs.



I love traveling. I got the "travel bug" from my parents, who took us all over the US when we were younger. Those trips, many to historical sites, also gave me my love of history. I have been to all but 2 states, one of which I hope to visit in the next couple of years. I have traveled to all of western Europe except Portugal, and all the continents except Antarctica. (Although I've spent less than 24 hours in Asia, and I never left the airport. One day, I will have to plan a proper trip to somewhere in Asia.)

Besides joining WRJSL this year, I also became a Red Coat for Playhouse Square, where I am enjoying watching the shows and meeting other volunteers.

