



NEOEA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- retired@neoea.org
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Hank Haynes, Editor

Locals Endorse Primary Candidate for Cuyahoga Executive

By William S. Lavezzi, Executive Director

Representatives of OEA's Cuyahoga County locals met on Monday, December 2, and voted to endorse **State Representative Armond D. Budish (D-12)** in the Democratic primary for Cuyahoga County Executive.

The position of Cuyahoga County Executive affects about 29% of NEOEA's active and retired members.

The position of Cuyahoga County Executive is sometimes said to be the second-most powerful elected position in Ohio, and due to the county's Democratic majority, the Democratic nominee is commonly regarded as a strong favorite to win the position.

Of Ohio's 88 counties, only Summit and Cuyahoga have a county executive form of government. Cuyahoga County voters began electing a County Executive in 2010 by approving a new county charter. Cuyahoga County locals made no endorsement in that year's Executive race, so this year's action was their first experience with this process.

The steps that led to the endorsement vote began in August, when several declared Democratic primary candidates approached NEOEA leaders to inquire about an endorsement. NEOEA does not endorse candidates, but OEA rules permit locals to make endorsements. At a September meeting, NEOEA's Legislative Committee approved the idea of bringing the Cuyahoga County locals together to decide whether to begin an endorsement process. At its October meeting, NEOEA's Board of Directors approved a process to consider recommendations to the 9,400 active and retired NEOEA members who either live or work in Cuyahoga County at its October meeting.

Presidents and representatives of interested Cuyahoga County OEA locals met on November 21 and decided to begin an endorsement process. The caucus developed a questionnaire to send to the three declared Democratic candidates and scheduled screening interviews.

On December 2, local presidents interviewed Representative Budish and two other declared candidates for the Democratic nomination: former Sheriff Robert Reid and State Senator Shirley A. Smith (D-21).

As News and Views goes to print, no Republican candidate has approached OEA's Cuyahoga County locals with any similar request. The filing deadline for both party primaries is February 5; local representatives will consider whether to make a recommendation in the Republican primary after that date.

OEA-R Delegate Caucus

The **OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus** met Friday, December 6, 2013 at the STRS Building prior to the OEA Representative Assembly.

Sixteen NEOEA-Retired members attended: Lynn Aring, Debbie Bernauer, Marsh Buckley, Bill Dorsey, Martha Franks, Hazel Haffner, Peg Ham, Hank Haynes, Warren Hershberger, Norm Hillstrom, Gary Hollow, Adele Matias, Donna Smoot-Walters, John Veverka, Pat Wagar, and Nancy Wonson.

Speakers included the OEA Officers: Becky Higgins, Scott DiMauro, and Tim Meyers; OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks; OEA-R Staff Liaison Bill Otten, and STRS Executive Director, Michael Neff.

The Caucus heard OEA-R Advisory Council Committee reports and voted to endorse Emily Osterling for the position of NEA Director #1.

OEA-R Delegates from NEOEA who attended the NEOEA Representative Assembly at Mentor HS on November 16, 2013 are: Homer Adams, Lynn Aring, Debbie Bernauer, Marshall Buckley, Beryl Burkle, Bill Dorsey, Marti Franks, Hazel Haffner, Hank Haynes, Gary Hollow, Norman Hillstrom, Adele Matias, Donna Smoot-Walters, John Veverka, Pat Wagar, and Nancy Wonson.

More on the "Delegates" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/delegates/>.

NEOEA-R Retirement Issues Sub-Committee Report

By Dennis Lewis, chair

STRS Retiree Series - Social Security/ Long-Term Care

STRS Ohio will host seminars during 2014 for members featuring the topic of Social Security benefits and Long Term Care Insurance issues. Information about the minimum qualifications for Social Security as well how the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) affect public employees will be provided as well how to consider long term care insurance policies.

The seminar is three hours in length and starts at 1:00 PM at the Northeastern Ohio locations listed below. Advance registration is required either through the STRS website <https://www.strsoh.org/counselingandseminars/receivingbenefitsseminars/retiree-series.html> or by calling 1-888-227-7877.

- Westlake – Holiday Inn – January 23, 2014
- Beachwood – Embassy Suites Cleveland – March 06, 2014
- Strongsville – Holiday Inn Cleveland – April 24, 2014
- Akron/Fairlawn – Doubletree Hilton Hotel – May 01, 2014

Free Access to Kiplinger's Retirement Report

NEA Member Benefits provides a free publication to members. You can now read Kiplinger's Retirement Report, which is published monthly at <http://www.neamb.com/retirement-center.htm>. This resource normally costs \$40 per year and copies are available in PDF format for printing or reading off line on a tablet or phone.

OEA-FCPE House District Screening Committees

If you wish to be considered for appointment to an OEA-FCPE House District Committee in your area, please contact the NEOEA office with your request. Training for the candidate screening process will occur at the NEOEA MegaConference, February 22, at Corporate College East. You must be an OEA-R member and an FCPE contributor living in or near the House District.

To contribute to OEA-FCPE with a credit card, go to the OEA website and click on "[Donate to FCPE](#)" along the left side under "Quick Links".

NEOEA Outreach to Community Organizations

NEOEA is beginning a process aimed at developing a speaker resource for community organizations in northeastern Ohio. With over 31,000 members knowledgeable on many topics, we know we have experts on education-related topics. The first step is to identify those community organizations and the topics they need; then identify members to speak on those topics.

If you belong to an organization which has a presence in your community, let us know about it. Involved with more than one organization? Just fill out a Community Organization Profile form or each organization online at <http://neoea.org/OrganizationProfile.pdf>.

It's important to educate our communities about the good things going on in our workplaces and to correct some of the misinformation that's out there. With your help, we can get started.

Read Across America March 3-14, 2014

By Beryl Burkle

Join the Outreach Committee in making plans for our adventures reading to children for the NEA Read Across America Program. Come and join the fun! We are planning to read during March 3-14. We will read in schools, libraries and events planned by us as a group. That is what has given us the title "Oh, the Places We Go".

Retirees are invited to volunteer to read at schools and libraries near them. You make the arrangements to read and let us know where you are going OR we have active teachers who would like to have you come to their classrooms and read. The Outreach Committee will be meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday, February 4, at the NEOEA Office in Garfield Hts. Please let us know what your plan is and the dates you will be reading.

We can supply you with extra books, a calendar, small cloth bags and hats as long as the supply lasts on the 4th of February.

For more information go to: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/read-across-america/>. This page includes links to the OEA and NEA Read Across America pages, each with valuable information about planning a reading event.

Remember, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child," Dr. Seuss, AKA Theodor Geisel.

Check the websites or contact Beryl Burkle at 330-659-3928. Join us in this fun! This is an activity we can all participate in!

Intergenerational Mentoring at Kent State University

NEOEA-Retired teachers are once again having a wonderful time mentoring the OSEA members at Kent State University. The mentors and mentees meet, exchanged ideas, and discussed how to best handle the challenges in education and add to their professional growth. It's a fantastic program where lifelong learning and friendships thrive.

OEA-R has received a grant from NEA to assist the Mentorship program. Retired members interested in serving as a mentor for

next year should contact Nanci DiBianca or Beryl Burkle to receive information about training in the spring. Visit our "Mentoring" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/oea-r-mentoring/> or use the "Contact Us" page.

OSEA student mentees, our future teachers and members, are already very involved in our Association. Marisa Manocchio is OSEA President, and on the OEA Board of Directors. Bradley Dalzell is the student observer to the NEOEA Board of Directors.

SERS December 19, 2013 Board Meeting Report

by Adele Matias, OEA-R ESP Representative

The CAFR, which contains a detailed look at the System's financial status and investment activities, as well as actuarial and statistical information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, is available on SERS' website. Also, for the second consecutive year, SERS will publish a Summary Annual Financial Report (SAFR), an 8-page document that summarizes the financial information contained in the CAFR. It is available on the website too.

Investments Update

As of October 31, the value of the fund was \$11.93 billion, up \$570 million from September. For FY2014, investments were up 7.67%, and for the calendar year, investments were up 13.00%.

Year-end Federal Update

Jim Miller, SERS' federal government liaison based in Washington, DC, briefed the Board on pension issues legislators tackled in 2013 and those that could arise in 2014.

Miller praised the Ohio delegation for their knowledge and support of Ohio's pension systems, and said that SERS and the other Ohio pension systems do a great job of providing legislators with data showing the economic impact of retirees in their districts.

One issue he believes will attract significant attention from legislators in 2014 is the implementation of new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) guidelines for reporting pension liabilities. The new GASB standards focus on accounting rather than funding and have the

potential to make public pensions appear as if they are underfunded when they are not. Miller said that Ohio's public pension systems are far ahead of other states in educating state and federal legislators about the GASB changes.

NEA-Retired Organizing Conference

The NEA Retired Organizing Conference will be held at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston Texas on March 25-27, 2014. The theme of this year's conference is "Raise Your Hand: Commit, Recruit Retired, Act" and is devoted to training retired members to organize their communities to advance the cause of public education. The event will feature national speakers, skill development and knowledge building as well as opportunities to network with peers.

Visit <http://www.nea.org/home/1598.htm> for information and online registration for the conference and hotel. The conference fee is \$85 and the hotel rate is \$155 per night.

NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

Save the date: April 30, 2014 at the NEOEA Conference Center. It's not too early to mark your calendar for the third **NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference**. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited.

Registration & Continental Breakfast at 9:30; two Breakout Sessions; Lunch; and done by 1:00. Choose from (A). Legislative update, (B). STRS update, (C). Member Benefits update, (D). A special interest workshop.

OEA-Retired Spring Conference

Save the date: Thursday, May 15, 2014. There will be a presentation by Andy Tipple, Naturalist, the Muskingum River Locks System, at the Zanesville Holiday Inn Express

(rooms available on your own). Also Lunch and visits to the National Road/Zane Gray Museum and the John & Annie Glenn Historic Site. Sponsored by EOEA-R, ECOEA-R & SEOEA-R.

Registration form and \$20.14 by April 1. Flyer at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2012/03/OEA-R-Spring-2014-Conference.pdf> and registration form at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2012/03/Regis2014V5.pdf>.

NEOEA-Retired Committees

Please consider volunteering to serve on one of our Committees. Let us know on our "**NEOEA-R Sub-Committee**" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/neoea-r-sub-committees/> or call the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200.

As an NEOEA Retiree, you have extensive knowledge and experience that can provide valuable help to the active members and public education in general. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time.

Member Only Comment Page

The NEOEA-Retired website now offers NEOEA Retirees their own comment page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/member-only-area/>.

NEOEA Retirees who are also OEA-R/NEA-R members can now request login credentials to post comments and receive notification when others reply. Everyone has an opinion; get it out there and see what other members have to say.

Calling All Local Retired Groups

Are you involved with a group of retirees from your Local Association? Do you get together for meetings, luncheons, or other events? NEOEA-R can help you involve members, strengthen your group, and keep members informed. NEOEA-R can provide your group with informative speakers or handouts on many subjects.

Two great member involvement programs are Read Across America and Intergenerational Mentoring. NEOEA-R can help you work with your Local Association to bring retired members in to help with Read Across America activities. The Intergenerational Mentoring program pairs retired members with education students at local colleges.

NEOEA Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts:

- **Best Benefits Club:** Our purchasing power allows Best Benefits Club to offer a complete and comprehensive benefits package including excellent discounts on quality products and services from mortgages, food, clothing, auto purchase/lease/repair and insurance... to theaters, amusement parks, sporting events, and more. Our password is **NEOEA0613e** or call 330-273-5756. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>
- **Cleveland Cavaliers** are offering discount tickets to the Houston Rockets game on Saturday, March 22. Save over \$35! <http://www.neoea.org/Cavaliers.pdf>
- **Direct Energy** is offering a fixed natural gas supply rate in the Dominion East Ohio Gas territory. Enjoy the peace-of-mind knowing you have a fixed natural gas supply rate through the winter months. <http://www.neoea.org/DirectEnergy.pdf>
- **Honeybaked Ham:** NEOEA's membership in Best Benefits Club (password: NEOEA0613e) permits members to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at <http://www.honeybaked.com/>.
- **IX Center:** The Great Big Home and Garden Show. Order tickets online to save \$5 per ticket! <http://www.neoea.org/2014GBHGS.pdf>
- **Long-term Care:** Ensure your independence by contacting LTC Financial Partners. You can also receive a free *Dignity for Life* book. <http://www.neoea.org/2014GBHGS.pdf>
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>





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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Chairperson
- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Vice Chair
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R, Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R, NEOEA Liaison, & OEA-R Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Homer Adams, Parma EA-R
- Denise Bartholomew, Howland Classroom TA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Patricia Black, East Cleveland EA-R
- Debbie Christman, Warren EA-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- Robert Dengler, Akron EA-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
- Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
- Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
- Hazel Haffner, Willoughby-Eastlake TA-R
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Richard Javorek, Brunswick EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

Address Service Requested

- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Playhouse Square:** Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://ev15.eventue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=psq&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR&promoType=corp>

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee Meeting, 9:30 am, February 4, NEOEA Office All Members Invited! - RSVP.

NEOEA Calendar

- Feb 4** NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office
- Feb 15** NEA-R Delegate & OEA-R Advisory Council Candidacy Forms due
- Feb 22** NEOEA MegaConference, CCC Corporate College East
- March 3** NEA Read Across America, various locations.
- March 25-27** NEA-Retired Organizing Conference, Houston TX
- March 10** NEOEA Legislative Dinner, TBD
- April 5** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Shaw HS
- April 12** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Green Tour, TBD
- April 30** NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference, NEOEA Office
- April 30** NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office
- May 8** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS

- May 9-10** OEA Representative Assembly, Veterans Memorial, Columbus
- May 15** OEA-Retired Spring Conference, Zanesville Holiday Inn Express

Stay Up to Date with the OEA and NEOEA-R Websites

Visit the **OEA** website - <http://www.ohea.org/> and the **NEOEA-R** website - <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/> for current information.

Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved and this newsletter stopped at your old address first? Make sure that we have your correct contact information; update your address and email on our "Contact Us" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/contact-us/>. Don't have internet access? Just call the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200.

