



# NEOEA -- Retired

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

## 2013 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

Mark your calendars. NEOEA-R will hold its fourth **Spring Retired Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on April 10, 2013. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited. Download a Registration Form at <http://www.neoea.org/NewsDetail.aspx?a=667>.

### Schedule:

9:30 - Registration & Continental Breakfast;

10:00 - Introductions & Welcome;

Breakout session choices:

(A). Health Care Utilization, STRS

(B). NEA Member Benefits, latest new benefits

(C). Legislative Update, Pension Reform, etc.,

(D). Apps for Mobile Devices, for you and the grandkids

10:30 - First Breakout Session;

11:35 - Second Breakout Session;

12:30 - Lunch and Door Prizes

## NEOEA Member Becky Higgins Runs for OEA President

NEOEA Past President (2010-11) **Becky Higgins**, a Copley teacher, is a candidate for President of the Ohio Education Association in an election to be held on Friday, May 10 at the OEA Representative Assembly. Her campaign theme is "**Innovative Leadership for Tomorrow's OEA.**"

At its meeting in November, the NEOEA Representative Assembly endorsed her candidacy. OEA delegates will choose between her and Bill Leibensperger, the current OEA Vice President .

Becky says that "Innovative leadership deserves an innovative campaign," and her campaign emphasizes issues affecting OEA members. She is publishing a weekly article about those issues on her website, <http://beckyhiggins4oeapresident.wordpress.com/>.

Those on Facebook can check out her Facebook page, **Becky Higgins for OEA President**, and Twitter users can follow her Twitter feed, **@BeckyHigginsOEA**.

Members interested in helping her campaign can donate by sending checks to the following address:

Campaign to Elect Becky Higgins

P.O. Box 2192

Sheffield Lake, OH 44054

The website has a convenient donation page for those who would like to donate with a credit card.

## OEA and NEOEA Prepare for Staff and Governance Changes

by William S. Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

Changes to Ohio's schools over the past several years have caused a decline in the number of Ohio educators, which in turn has led to reductions in OEA membership. The reductions have been in the area of 10% over the past several years. Those reductions have led to changes in staffing and governance which will in turn affect your active colleagues. The processes are referred to as "realignment" and "reapportionment."

### OEA Staff Realignment

Over the last several months of 2012, OEA management developed a plan to reduce OEA field staff from 83 to 76 Labor Relations Consultants (UniServ consultants), organized into four administrative regions (previously five). NEOEA locals, which have been serviced by 22 LRCs, will now be serviced by 20. The Mayfield Heights office of OEA will be closed at the end of February and its staff moved to other offices.

On January 31, OEA professional staff participated a "bid day" in which they were able to bid for the new assignments in seniority order. The new LRC assignments will take effect on Monday, March 4.

### Governance Reapportionment

Most members of the Boards of Directors of OEA and NEOEA are unit representatives, elected to represent active members from electoral units of approximately 3,000 members. Since 2002, NEOEA has had eleven electoral units, but recent losses of membership require reapportionment among ten electoral units.

In November, the Board of Directors appointed a Reapportionment Advisory Committee to formulate recommendations for new electoral units. The Board of Directors acted on those recommendations at its meeting on February 23. The changes will require some new elections at NEOEA's Representative Assembly in April, with new units and representatives to take effect on September 1.

The reapportionment does not affect OEA's active members in the Division of Higher Education; by rule, that division has one statewide electoral unit. Likewise, retired and student members have one electoral unit each.

**Miss Your NEOEA News & Views?**

**Go to the NEOEA Website**

<http://www.neoea.org/>

**Check out the NEOEA-Retired website - <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>**

## OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections

A mail-in ballot election will be held for the following OEA-Retired Advisory Council positions:

### NEOEA Representative:

- Beryl M. Burkle – Bedford EA-R, NEOEA
- Peg Ham – Lorain EA-R, NEOEA

### ESP Representative:

- Adele M. Matias – Mayfield EA-R, NEOEA
- Clarice F. Thomas – ???, WOEa

Ballots and bios will be mailed out no later than February 28. Please promptly mark and return your ballot.

The following OEA-Retired Advisory Council positions were unopposed and elected by acclamation:

- Bill Sears – OEA Board of Directors Representative
- Jeff Corbin – Capital Representative
- Bob Beers – SWOEa Representative
- Jane A. Rahn – WOEa Representative
- Bonita (Bonnie) Harris – Higher Education Representative

### Adele M. Matias

#### Candidate for ESP Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council:

Go Wildcats! It was exciting working as an Education Support Professional in a dynamic district like Mayfield City Schools. It allowed me as a parent, community member and employee to experience the triumphs and struggles of working in education. As a member of OEA I was proud to serve as Vice-President in my local and as many of you know one job carries many obligations. I was a contract negotiator, active in UniServ council, health care committee member and delegate to NEOEA/OEA/NEA. The opportunity to attend NEA Women's Leadership Conference and also to receive Public Pension Retirement Board Training helped me continue my political involvement and advocacy for educators.

The theme of this year's NEA ESP Conference is "ESP, It is more than a job. It's a Career!" After 27 years in education it is gratifying to continue supporting students and educators by joining OEA/NEA-R. I hope to further my involvement by serving as a member of the OEA-R Advisory Committee as ESP-At Large.



NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee members read for Read Across America 2013 : Nanci DiBianca, Denise Bartholomew, Adele Matias, Norm Hillstrom, Patricia Black, and Beryl Burkle.

### Beryl M. Burkle

#### Candidate for NEOEA-R Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council:

I have served responsibly for one term and am confident that with my re-election I can pursue our joint interests. My responsibility as NEOEA-R Representative includes communicating information between our NEOEA-R members and the OEA-Retired Advisory Council. I report to the NEOEA-R Organizing Committee and attend all OEA-R Advisory Council meetings.

In meeting these duties I will serve on an OEA Committee as a retired member; serve on one or more OEA-R Standing Committees; promote and encourage OEA-R membership enrollment and recruitment. I also attend the NEOEA Representative Assemblies and the OEA Representative Assemblies as a voting delegate.

We need to stay updated on retirement issues and legislative issues since they affect retired members. We can glean this information through our communications at meetings of the OEA-Retired Advisory Council.

### Peg Ham

#### Candidate for NEOEA-R Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council:

I am interested in the position of Northeastern Ohio E.A. District-OEA Retired Advisory Council Representative. I believe it is important to communicate and understand the need for members to stay informed of issues pertaining to retirees and being a resource

person for active members. I have been active on the local, state, and national levels and I feel I would be ideal for this position in keeping continuity between active and retired members. I've held several positions from membership chair on the local level, NEOEA chairperson of the professional development committee and Lorain Education Association-R (LEA) nominating committee. I've had an opportunity to attend conferences for the OEA-R and the NEA-R and I have a chance to learn more about issues pertaining to retirees. I know there are issues retirees are interested in like pension protection, member benefits, community organizing, health care, etc. These are issues that have come out and I want to share what I have learned. As the representative, I welcome the opportunity to share this information to the North East retirees on these issues or other issues as they pertain to our retirees.

### Ohio NEA-Retired Delegate Elections

The 2013 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Atlanta, GA on July 1 – July 6. The OEA-Retired are entitled to eight (8) NEA RA delegates for the 2013 NEA RA. The OEA-Retired President serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office; therefore, retired members will vote for no more than seven (7) candidates.

Ballots and bios will be mailed out no later than February 28. Please promptly mark and return your ballot.

Below are the names of candidates who will be placed on the ballot.

- Homer O. Adams – NEOEA
- Marilyn Allen – Capital
- Marsh Buckley – NEOEA
- Beryl M. Burkle – NEOEA
- Sue Christian – Central
- Sandy Coe – WOEAA
- Arnette G.P. Collins – ECOEA
- Susie Crawford – CENTRAL
- William A. Dorsey – NEOEA
- Gail Gentile – NEOEA
- Peg Ham – NEOEA
- Deloris Rome Hudson – SWOEAA
- Carol Kinsey – ECOEA
- Joan Klein – WOEAA
- Phil A. Long – WOEAA
- Adele M. Matias – NEOEA
- Judy Ritchey Novak – NCOEA
- Kathleen Purdy – ECOEA
- Jane A. Rahn – WOEAA
- Bill Sears – SWOEAA
- Donna Smoot-Walters – NEOEA
- Christina Wall Swank – NCOEA
- Willie A. Terrell, Jr. – WOEAA
- Clarice F. Thomas – WOEAA
- Donald L. Traxler – NWOEAA
- Pat Wagar – NEOEA
- Nancy Wonson – NEOEA

**CATEGORY 2**

Robert L. Dengler – Elected by Acclamation

**STRS Board Candidates**

At its last meeting, the OEA Board of Directors voted to endorse **Jim McGreevy** and **Bob Stein** for reelection to the retiree seats on the STRS Board. The STRS Board election will be conducted throughout the month of April. Please promptly mark and return your ballots.

**Jim McGreevy** and **Bob Stein** are committed to providing:

- Secure and lasting pension benefits
- Access to quality health care
- Prudent and experienced leadership

We need to ensure that Ohio's retired teachers are represented on the STRS Board by knowledgeable and dedicated board members. As current members of the STRS Board, both candidates have valuable experience in advocating for retirees. McGreevy and Stein are committed to making

sure that STRS is able to meet its long-term obligations to offer economic security and access to meaningful health care.

**OEA Member Lobby Days  
Make Your Voice Heard!**

- Wednesday, March 20, 2013 (OEA Legislative Reception in the evening at the Statehouse – to RSVP for the OEA Legislative Reception, please contact Briana McKay at [mckayb@ohea.org](mailto:mckayb@ohea.org) or 614-227-3056)
- Tuesday, April 16, 2013
- Tuesday, April 30, 2013
- Tuesday, May 14, 2013
- Tuesday, June 11, 2013

OEA members and Ohio's public schools face critical challenges this General Assembly. The Governor recently released his biennial budget proposal, which includes a new school funding formula, the statewide expansion of vouchers and a massive income tax cut that mostly benefits wealthy Ohioans and drains \$4.3 billion from much-needed state revenue.

Now more than ever you must make sure your voice is heard! Member Lobby Days provide an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key issues that impact you directly.

Join your colleagues at the OEA Headquarters' Media Center, located at 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio at 9:00 am for an hour-long briefing. Keep in mind that you need to contact your legislator to schedule a meeting prior to the lobby day you plan to attend.

To RSVP for any of the lobby day dates, please email Julie Parsley at [parsleyj@ohea.org](mailto:parsleyj@ohea.org). For more information, contact OEA Government Relations at 1-800-282-1500.

**Green Tour of  
Northeastern Ohio Wineries**

Join the **NEOEA Environmental Concerns Committee** on a tour of Northeast Ohio Wineries on Saturday, April 13. Learn about environmentally-friendly practices employed at wineries, taste some great local wine, and let us do the driving.

You can get on the charter bus at NEOEA headquarters at 8:00 am or get on the bus at Lakehouse Inn and Winery at 9:15 am, located at 5653 Lake Road East, Geneva, OH 44041. We will tour and taste at Tarsitano, Markko, Harpersfield, and St. Joseph's, and stop for lunch at Ferrante.

The bus will return to Lakehouse at 3:45 and be back at NEOEA at 4:45. If you get on the bus at Lakehouse, consider making a reservation and stay the night at one of the fabulous B&Bs located in the Geneva area.

Registration of \$35 per person is due by March 29.

In addition to the registration fee, each winery will charge \$5 for (optional) tasting and you will pay for your own lunch/wine at Ferrante.

Limited to 25 participants. Join us on the Green Tour. Pre-registrations can be downloaded at <http://www.neoea.org/NewsDetail.aspx?a=669> and are due Friday, March 29, 2013.

**NEOEA Discounts**

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

- **AutoRama:** Print off the discount coupon to save \$2 per ticket to the I-X Piston Powered AutoRama March 15-17.
- **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 NEOEA0613.
- **Cleveland Cavaliers** are offering discount tickets!
- **Direct Energy Direct Choice** savings program
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members.
- **Dominion East Ohio Gas** is offering a new home energy savings program to help homeowners reduce their utility bills while making their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.
- **Honeybaked Ham** (NEOEA's membership in Best Benefits Club



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**NEOEA-R Organizing Committee**

- Gary Hollow, Chairperson
- Nancy Wonson, Vice-Chair
- Adele Matias, Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Board Liaison
- Hank Haynes, Newsletter/Web Editor
- Homer Adams
- Denise Bartholomew
- Debbie Bernauer
- Patricia Black
- Debbie Christman
- Lyn Curry-Huston
- Robert Dengler
- Nanci DiBianca
- Carol Dolgosh
- Martha Dunford
- Hazel Haffner
- Peg Ham
- Norm Hillstrom
- Nancy Javorek
- Richard Javorek
- Dennis Lewis
- Shelley Marchand
- Patricia Sharkey
- Pat Wagar
- Karen Wood

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(password: NEOEA0613) permits members to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at [www.honeybaked.com](http://www.honeybaked.com).)

- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members.
- **IX Indoor Amusement Park:** Print off the discount coupon or go online to save \$3 per ticket--March 22 through April 14!
- **Park Place** (discount airport parking).
- **PlayhouseSquare** (be sure to use the promotional code FAMTIX).

**NEOEA Calendar**

- March 21-23** NEA-R Organizing Conference, Double Tree Hilton, Orlando, FL
- Apr 8** NEOEA Legislative Dinner, St Michael's Woodside, Broadview Hts
- Apr 10** NEOEA-R Spring Conference NEOEA Conference Center , Garfield Hts

- Apr 13** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Green Tour, Lakehouse Inn and Winery, Geneva, OH
- Apr 20** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Warrensville Hts High School
- May 10-11** OEA Representative Assembly, Vets Memorial Hall, Columbus
- May 18** NEOEA All-Committee Conference, NEOEA Conference Center , Garfield Hts
- June 1** Ohio NEA Delegate Caucus, Columbus
- June 28-30** NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- July 1-6** NEA Representative Assembly, Atlanta, GA
- July 24-25** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, TBA

**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/> every week for current information.

For links to up to date **OEA and Retirement System** reports visit the **Reports and Updates** page on the NEOEA-R website at: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/reports-updates/>.

Sign-up for **OEA Text Message Alerts**  
 Text "OEA" to: 69866

On the **OEA** website:

- **Sign up to Cyber-Lobby** , just click on POLITICAL ACTION / Advocates for Children and Education (ACE)
- **Donate to OEA-FCPE**, just click on Donate to FCPE

Be an Advocate for Children & Education



Give to the Fund for Children and Public Education

