



# NEOE-R -- Retired

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

## OEA-R Advisory Council Elections

Two NEOEA-R members are running for the **NEOE Representative** position on the **OEA-R Advisory Council**. Mail in ballots will be sent to OEA-R members in March. Please complete and return your ballot.

- **Marsh Buckley**, Mentor TA-R

- **Donna Smoot-Walters**, Barberton EA-R,

Please review their campaign statements elsewhere in this newsletter. Full Association bios are included with the ballot.

Congratulations to NEOEA-R members who were unopposed and elected by acclamation under OEA/OEA-R rules to positions on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council:

- **Barbara Catalano**, Mayfield EA-R, - **ESP Representative**

- **Bonnie Harris**, YSU-R - **Higher Ed. Representative**

The term of office for these positions begins September 1, 2016, and ends August 31, 2019. These positions serve as automatic delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly by virtue of office.

## Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

Twelve NEOEA-R members from a field of 35 candidates are running for the eight NEA-R Delegate from Ohio positions. Mail in ballots will be sent to OEA-R members in March. Please complete and return your ballot.

Please consider the following NEOEA-R members: **Homer O. Adams, Marsh Buckley, Beryl M. Burkle, Barbara Catalano, William A. Dorsey, Marti Franks, Gail Gentile, Peg Ham, Lynnette R. Harris, Joyce Hives, Donna Smoot-Walters, and Nancy Wonson.**

The **2016 NEA Representative Assembly** will be held in Washington, DC. on July 2 – July 7, with the NEA-Retired Annual Conference on June 27-July 1. OEA-Retired is entitled to nine (9) NEA RA delegates for the 2016 NEA RA. The OEA-Retired Chairperson serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office; therefore, retired members will vote for no more than eight (8) candidates.

## OEA Pre-Retired Workshop

Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

OEA-R will be conducting a special workshop for **active OEA members** to learn about the benefits of joining OEA-R as a Pre-Retired member prior to their retirement date.

The workshop will be held **AFTER** the **NEOE Megaconference** on March 12 at Corporate College East, 4400 Richmond Road,

Warrensville Heights from 1:00 PM—2:30 PM. There is no charge for this workshop so interested participants can drop in.

STRS Representative Tamla Cole will provide an update. NEA Members Benefit Specialist Guy Kendall-Freas will explain the NEA Value Builders Program.

It will be informative and interactively designed with questions and answers. All members, retirees, and guests are welcome. Please invite any friends who are still working and approaching their retirement date.

## 2016 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

By Deb Bakos, NEOEA-R Organizing Committee

NEOE-R will hold its seventh **NEOE-Retired Spring Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on April 27, 2016, 9:30—1:15. Registration is \$20 and due by April 15.

Choose to attend two of four breakout sessions:

- Legislative Update—Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice-President
- STRS/SERS Pension & Healthcare Update—Tamla Cole, STRS & Matt Slain, financial advisor
- What I Want My Loved Ones to Know—Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits
- Resources for Travel, Online Tools for Your Travel Toolbox (Bring Your Own Device)—Deb Bakos

Register for the sessions that appeal to you and send the enclosed form, along with \$20 check to the Office by April 15 or download the registration form at <http://www.neoea.org/RetiredSpringConf2016.pdf>.

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 9:30. After a brief welcome, you have the choice of attending two breakout sessions. Lunch will be provided, followed by an NEA Member Benefits-sponsored Ice Cream Social.

Members who have attended have found the conference to be an enjoyable and informative way to spend a day. Call a friend and come join us! All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited.

Here a bit more about Matt Slain's financial session: The uncertainty of health care and social security, market volatility, and STRS/SERS changes can all create waves in what we all hope is a smooth retirement. Hope is a great thing but when it comes to making smart decisions in retirement, knowledge trumps hope. This interactive presentation separates fact from fiction and leaves attendees feeling empowered and confident about their future.

## 2016 OEA-Retired Spring Conference

OEA-R will hold its **2016 OEA-Retired Spring Conference** at the STRS Building 7th Floor on April 26, 2016, 9:30—3:00. Registration is \$25 and due April 15. The schedule includes:

- Continental Breakfast & Registration
- Legislative Update—Dan Ramos, OEA
- NEA Value Builder Program—Guy Kendall-Freas
- Lunch
- Columbus Museum of Art—Overview and Tour

All OEA-R members in are invited. Bring a friend! Download a registration form at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/files/2014/12/OEA-R2016SpringConference.pdf>. Check the OEA-R website <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

## Returning to Work in Education?

Protect yourself, check out the current OEA membership requirements at <http://www.ohea.org/retired-membership-status>.

## Talk to Your Friends

Encourage them to join OEA Retired and NEA Retired. Members of OEA-R and NEA-R save well over the \$350 Life Membership fee when they take advantage of discounts on home insurance, car insurance, or appliance discounts through the Association.

Watch the new OEA-R Membership video on YouTube: "OEA-R Working for your Future" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkBsrns4uVs>.

Download the new OEA-R Membership Flyer at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2016/02/OEA-R-Membership-Flyer-.pdf> or for more information or visit the OEA-Retired website at <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>.

If you are not a member of OEA-R and NEA-R, consider joining now. Join online with a credit card at <https://sites.nea.org/JoinNea/>.

## Read Across America

Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

NEOEA-R will be celebrating NEA Read Across America during the month of March. We are off to a good start with readers working their own schedules or readers volunteering for places near their homes to read. Active teachers have found this to be an exciting program to bring to their classrooms. Libraries are also excellent places to read.

The Board of Directors of NEOEA has provided a generous grant to buy new books to leave where we read. We thank them very much for giving our program such wonderful support.

Gary Hollow has agreed to put together a new YouTube video this year. If you would like to be included, please let me know your schedule and location. If you have your own photos send them to Linda Grunden [desk@neoea.org](mailto:desk@neoea.org) at the NEOEA Office before March 25th.

Join our worthwhile reading endeavor for children and become a READER. It is not too late to join us for this adventure. Reach me at [berylburkle@gmail.com](mailto:berylburkle@gmail.com) or 330-659-3928. You can pick the day, the time and the place. I want to help you have a great experience. Let students know the joys of reading is a lifelong skill.

## Mentoring Fun at KSU

By Beryl Burkle and Nanci DiBianca - Co-Facilitators at KSU

A Group of Mentees and Mentors spent an exciting evening at the North Pole in December. We dressed in costumes and met The Polar Express at the North Pole! The elves met the trains and waved and danced on the platform making lots of noise. It was a fun evening. Trains come from Independence and Akron.

Our next group adventure will be a Read Across America Program planned by our Kent Student Education Association on March 5th at Ravenna High School in Ravenna, Ohio. The students will host this event for local grade school students. Mentors have been

asked to volunteer and support them from 11:00 AM until 2:15 PM. Many activities have been planned to keep everyone engaged.

## Marsh Buckley, Candidate for NEOEA Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council

I want to run for Ohio Education Association-Retired Advisory Council Representative for both simple and complex reasons. It is simple because several delegates and former officers have asked me to run. The complex reason is my desire for excellence.

OEA-R is a very good organization, but we can be better. The new changes in the OEA-R Guidelines are a good start for a superior organization. We now need leaders who can look at this philosophical framework and put it into action. Resolutions represent the philosophical beliefs of our organization.

I spent six years on NEA Resolutions, seventeen years on OEA Resolutions, and over twenty on NEOEA Resolutions. I clearly have experience with dealing with philosophy, but it pales in comparison to my reputation to get things done. My six years on the NEA Board of Directors, six years on the OEA Board of Directors, and nine years on the NEOEA Board of Directors have given me experience putting philosophy into action. Presidents of NEA, OEA, and NEOEA have placed me in positions of trust, because of my energy and determination.

Your vote for me will allow us to transform our organization to the next level excellence.

## Barbara Catalano, Candidate for OEA ESP Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council

ESPs need to be involved in OEA-R for the same reasons teachers do, to support active members and the membership as a whole.

NEOEA is the leader in ESP issues in Ohio and I have worked hard in this area. Having served as ESP at Large member of the NEOEA and OEA Board of Directors I have served not only ESPs but all members of OEA.

*Continued next*



I know the importance of being involved in and sharing the information. I bring experience and activism as a local leader, in OAESP and in both NEOEA and OEA Board of Directors along with participation in Representative Assemblies.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

(Barb was unopposed for the position and elected by acclimation under OEA and OEA-R rules.)

### Donna Smoot Walters, Candidate for NEOEA Representative to the OEA-Retired Advisory Council

I am seeking your vote and support for the seat representing NEOEA on the OEA-Retired Advisory Council.

I know it is important for me to communicate and understand the needs of NE-R members. I believe that it is time for NE-Retired members' voices to be heard. Since my retirement four years ago, I have learned of many issues that are important to Retirees by attending numerous conferences given by NEOEA-R, OEA-R, and NEA-R. If I am elected, I will keep you informed of the issues that are important to retired members.

To be the best you have to be better, my experiences have helped me develop the skills needed to provide you with the best representation on OEA-Retired Advisory Council.

Will you help me give NEOEA Retired members a voice in Columbus?

Thank you for your support and your vote.

### Retirement System Reports

Get the current OEA report on the three retirement systems at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates>.

**Adele Matias**, OEA-R ESP Representative, attends SERS meetings. Adele's reports are at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>. Visit the SERS site for complete information: <http://www.ohsers.org/>.

### Candidate for State Board of Education

Retiring August 31, NEOEA Executive Director, Bill Lavezzi announced his candidacy for the District 11 seat on the Ohio State Board of Education. The seat is currently held by Mary Rose Oakar.

SBE District 11 includes Ohio Senate Districts 21, 23, and 25 encompassing much of Cuyahoga County and part of Lake County

Mr. Lavezzi updates a weekly blog covering issues affecting education at <http://bill4board.us/>.

### 2016 NEA Retired Organizing Conference

The 2016 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference - "Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It" is the theme for the 2016 conference. The conference is devoted to training retired members to organize their communities to advance the cause of public education.

Scheduled for March 22-24, 2016, the conference will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina, San Diego, CA. The event will feature national speakers, skill development and knowledge building, workshops, fun times as well as opportunities to network with peers.

Registration for the 2016 Retired Organizing Conference is now open. Please go to the NEA-Retired webpage at <http://www.nea.org/home/1598.htm> and click on the links to register for the conference and make your hotel reservation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Willie Cook at [wcook@nea.org](mailto:wcook@nea.org).

### NEOEA Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts visit <http://neoea.org/resources/member-benefits/>.

- **OEA Attorney Referral Program:** login at the OEA Member Services page <https://www.ohea.org/legal-services> or download <http://www.neoea.org/ARP.pdf>

- **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/>
- **Honeybaked Ham:** Order on the Best Benefits Club website (password: NEOEA0613e) to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at <http://www.honeybaked.com/>
- **Playhouse Square:** Tickets at a discounted rate with a flat \$7 handling fee. Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://www.playhousesquare.org/ceo>
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** Join their educator membership program and share your love of science with your family! Enjoy free, unlimited general admission to the Science Center and the Mather Steamship for a full year plus free general admission to more than 340 science centers worldwide. For information on their discounted educator memberships, call 216-696-4576 or visit <http://www.greatscience.com/educators.aspx>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>

### New NEOEA Website

Visit the new NEOEA website at <http://www.neoea.org/>.

Be sure to register on the site to take advantage of all of the information that is available. After you complete the registration process, you will receive an email with a temporary password. Then log in and enjoy the new site and your *NEOEA News & Views*. Download forms and reports from the Presidents page, complete access to everything available to Local Presidents.



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**NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:**

- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R, Vice Chair
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R, Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Past Chair
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R,  
OEA-R Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R, NEOEA Liaison &  
OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R,  
OEA-R ESP Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Deb Bakos, Cardinal EA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R
- Pat Cohen, LEADD-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- Pat Czech, Sheffield-Sheffield Lake TA-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
- Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
- Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
- Sue Fatica, Painesville City TA-R
- Patricia Frost-Brooks, East Cleveland EA-R
- Hazel Haffner, Willoughby-Eastlake TA-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
- Richard Javorek, Brunswick EA-R
- Dale Kain, Mayfield EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Sherri Koncija, Painesville City TA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R

Address Service Requested

**Looking for More Information?**

- NEOEA-Retired – <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
- NEOEA – <http://www.neoea.org/>
- NEOEA Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/NEOEA>
- OEA-Retired – <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>
- OEA – <http://www.ohea.org/>

**Need to Update Your Contact Information?**

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.

**NEOEA Calendar**

- March 1-31** Read Across America
- March 11-12** NEA ESP Conference, Orlando, FL
- March 12** NEOEA Megaconference
- March 22-24** NEA-Retired Organizing Conference, San Diego, CA
- April 9** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Tallmadge HS
- April 26** OEA-Retired Spring Conference, STRS Building
- April 27** NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference, NEOEA Office
- May 12** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS, Columbus, OH
- May 13-14** OEA Representative Assembly, Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH
- June 10** NEOEA Emerging Leaders Cookout, NEOEA Office
- June 22-23** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Holiday Inn, Independence, OH

**Green Tour**

Come join us at the Countryside Farmers' Market at Old Trail School on Saturday, April 23. There'll be a presentation by Countryside U, a visit to the Trapp Family Farm, shopping, eating, and more. What's not to love? More details are available at <http://www.neoea.org/GreenTour.pdf>.

**New York, New York**

Mark your calendars! Come join us on NEOEA Day weekend (October 13-16, 2016) in New York City! See a Broadway show, visit the 911 Museum, or dinner at Carmine's: travel in a deluxe motor coach with a guide from 20th Century Tours. <http://www.neoea.org/NYC2016.pdf>.

