



NEOE 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

NEOE Retired Spring Conference April 19, 2017

Enclosed is the Registration Flyer for this popular annual update of Association issues by NEOEA-Retired. Cost is only \$20 with free parking. The conference will be held at the NEOEA Conference Center. You may download an additional Registration Flyer at: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2016/04/RetiredSpringConf2017.pdf>.

SCHEDULE

- 9:30 Check in & Continental Breakfast
 - 10:00 Introductions and Welcome
 - 10:30 Breakout Session 1
 - 11:35 Breakout Session 2
 - 12:30 Lunch
- Ice Cream Social provided by NEA Member Benefits

Breakout session topics (pick two)

- **STRS by Tamla Cole:** Tamla will present a brief overview of 2017 STRS Pension Reform changes and the status of the pension and health care funding.
- **NEA MBingo! by Guy Kendall-Freas:** This session will highlight the newest NEA Member Benefits and provide an overview of the many ways members are saving money and will be presented in a BINGO format where members not only learn but will win lots of prizes, too!
- **Legislative Update by Scott DiMauro:** 132nd General Assembly and other current issues.
- **Tech Tips by Bill Lavezzi:** An interactive look at how retirees use technology: social media (Facebook and Twitter), photo sharing, and video calling.

OEA-R Spring Conference

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at Kingwood Center, Mansfield.
Sponsored by NWOEA and NCOEA. STRS update and tours of the manor, greenhouse, and grounds. Download registration form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/events/spring-conference/>.

2017 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference – Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It

March 21-23, 2017, Renaissance Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207.

Registration for the 2017 NEA-Retired Organizing Conference is now open. Please go to <http://www.nea.org/grants/19458.htm> to register for the conference and make your hotel reservation. If you have any questions, please contact Willie Cook at wcook@nea.org.

NEA-R Delegate and OEA-R Advisory Council Elections

OEA is once again conducting the OEA-Retired elections online using Election-America.com as the service provider. All OEA-R members should be receiving a letter and/or email with instructions for online voting or requesting a paper ballot. Balloting deadline is March 31.

In the Fall OEA-R Election only 7.8% of OEA-R members cast a vote, down from 23-25% in previous years when OEA conducted OEA-R elections by paper ballot mailed to your home along with candidate profiles.

The online voting process may be confusing and requires clicking through several screens and entering an "Election Code" and a "Voting PIN". The candidate profiles are not available until you are actually on the ballot screen and then they must be downloaded to be viewed.

For your convenience here are links to the candidate profiles for NEA-R Delegates and OEA-R Advisory Council At-Large: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/oea-retired-members/>

Of the 30 candidates for **NEA-R Delegate**, nine (9) are from NEOEA (in order of appearance on the profile document): **Marti Franks**, Twinsburg EA-R; **Donna Smoot Walters**, Barberton EA-R; **Nancy Wonson**, Lakewood TA-R; **Barbara Catalano**, Mayfield EA-R; **Homer O. Adams**, Parma EA-R; **Adele Matias**, Mayfield EA-R; **Joyce M. Hives**, East Cleveland EA-R; **William A. Dorsey**, Painesville City TA-R; and **Peg Ham**, Lorain EA-R. Please vote for no more than eight (8) candidates or your ballot will be voided.

Of the six candidates for **OEA-R Advisory Council At-Large**, one is from NEOEA: **Donna Smoot Walters**.

If you have just received a letter or email "**Vote now in the OEA-Retired 2017 Elections**" from "Ohio Education Association <help@election-america.com>" here is what to expect:

1. In the email or letter you will receive your "Election Code" and a "Voting PIN". There is a link to the OEA webpage describing the election, with another link to the voting site.
2. On the voting site, you will be asked to enter your "Election Code" and a "Voting PIN".
3. On the next screen you will see a description of the elections.
4. The next screen is the actual ballot with links to download the candidate profiles.
5. The next screen is a confirmation screen for you to review your voting selections.
6. The last screen reports that your vote has been submitted and includes a link to go back and enter a new "Election Code" and a "Voting PIN" if another member is with you, has their code and PIN, and is ready to vote.

Although the OEA-R Delegate Assembly has called for a return to paper ballots, it appears that online voting is with us for the foreseeable future. If you have comments or concerns please contact:

- OEA-R Chairperson - John Hoyes, jhoyes@columbus.rr.com
- OEA-R Board of Directors Representative - Carol Kinsey, cskinsey@aol.com
- OEA President - Becky Higgins, higginsb@ohea.org
- OEA Vice President - Scott Mauro, dimauros@ohea.org
- OEA Treasurer - Tim Myers, myerst@ohea.org

NEOEA-R County Luncheon

The **NEOEA Retired Luncheon** for **Geauga, Lake and Ashtabula** counties is set for 11:30 AM, Tuesday, March 21, at **Sunny Street Café**, 7531 Crile Road, Painesville, OH 44077, just one block southeast of Interstate 90/44 intersection.

This luncheon is an opportunity for our retirees to get together with other retirees from their area. All NEOEA retirees are invited. Lunch cost is on your own. Updates on current issues will be provided. Call your retired friends and bring them along. They will be welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

RSVP: send an email to Carol Dolgosh at CarolD1007@aol.com. For questions, call Carol at 440-392-9123.

NEOEA Representative Assembly

NEOEA's Representative Assembly meets on Saturday, March 25, at Nordon High School, 8006 South Bedford Road in Macedonia. Registration starts at 9:00 and the Assembly begins at 10:00. Members, including retired members, are welcome to register as guests and sit in the guest seating area provided.

infoOEA Contact Center

Update your contact information with OEA at: **1-844-OEA-info (1 844 632 4636)** or membership@ohea.org.

NEOEA-Retired Outreach Committee News

• NEOEA-R Facebook page

Keep up to date on information from OEA, OEA-R, and NEOEA-R. Join our Facebook page. Search NEOEA RETIRED, then ask to "join" and you will be approved quickly. You will see both state and national issues as well as fun local activities involving our members.

• OEA-R Advisory Council

The OEA-R Advisory Council would like to identify retired members that might have some expertise in a specific area and would be willing to present workshops or in-services. They are putting together a roster that would be available to all the Districts. If you are interested in having your name included in the roster, please contact Judy Buschle at judybuschle@aol.com. Be sure to include your topic of expertise for which you are willing to present.

• Are You a Volunteer? Does Your Organization Need Help?

NEOEA-R is looking to connect NEOEA retirees with your organization. Submit the details on the NEOEA-R website, <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/volunteers/> and we will post them on our Volunteer page.

OEA Lobby Day and Statehouse Reception

Join us in conversations with your Legislators on Member Lobby Day, Tuesday, March 28. Member Lobby Day provides an opportunity for OEA members and other members of the public education community to collectively lobby the Ohio General Assembly about issues that are important to public education, education employees, and the learners we serve. Come join your fellow educators from northeast Ohio and all over the state. Download OEA Legislative Watches: <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/legislative-watch/>. For more information: <https://www.ohea.org/actions/oea-member-lobby-day/>.

NEOEA will be coordinating activities and provide a bus. Download and register: <http://www.neoea.org/LobbyDay.pdf>.

NEOEA / OEA / NEA Read Across America

NEOEA-Retired will be celebrating NEA's Read Across America starting on March 1 and continuing through the month. We will read to students across NEOEA. Retired readers are needed to read in classrooms, libraries, or at other events. If you can spend some time reading to children, please contact Beryl Burkle, NEOEA-R Read Across America Chairperson, at berylburkle@gmail.com or 330-659-3928.

We will leave new and used books where we read. The bookplate inside the front cover will say, "Shared by North Eastern Ohio Education Association Retired Members 2017."

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

OEA and NEA have great resources for planning a Read Across America event in your area, go to <http://www.ohea.org/raa> and <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>.

To see our past adventures for Read Across America, find us on YouTube:

2015: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJIJn6ivFk>

2014: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8OvyLx0ln8>

NEOEA Megaconference

NEOEA's Megaconference on March 4 drew over 320 members and guests, attracted by 33 course offerings developed by NEOEA's committees. The NEOEA-R Organizing Committee hosted two sessions about online resources by WVIZ/PBS ideastream: "Digital Literacy: PBS LearningMe" and "INFOhio".

Two other sessions addressed school boards. The "State School Board Panel" discussed current issues; and "How to Change Your Local School Board" covered how to identify, screen, and elect school board members.

Many retired members attended a session for single members, "On My Own" which covered the medical, legal, and financial aspects of living alone, whether as a lifestyle or due to circumstance.

Each year, NEOEA's Megaconference offers our most varied program of workshops for members, covering Leadership Development, Personal Development, and Professional Development topics. Detailed Information and at: <http://neoea.org/mega/>. Mark your calendars, next year's Megaconference is scheduled for February 24, 2018.

NEOEA Legislative Receptions

NEOEA's Legislative Committee held its annual Legislative Receptions on Monday, February 13, 2017. Northeastern Ohio House and Senate Districts were divided into four zones:

- North: Cuyahoga and Lake Counties at the Winking Lizard in Lakewood
- South: Medina and Summit Counties at On Tap in Medina
- East: Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, and Trumbull Counties at Welshfield Inn in Burton
- West: Erie and Lorain Counties at Ziggy's in Amherst

Come Join Us in the Big Apple

Although NEOEA Day (October 13, 2017) seems like a long way off, it will be here before you know it. If you want to be guaranteed a seat on the bus for our annual tour to New York City, now is the time to make your reservation.

Call a friend and join the fun on NEOEA Day weekend, October 12-15, 2017, in New York City for our annual tour. Lodging, transportation, and some meals are included. A Broadway show and a visit to the 911 Memorial Museum are optional.

New York City Tour includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights at The Manhattan at Times Square Hotel in New York City, baggage handling for one bag per person in New York City, a guided city tour, an optional visit to the 911 Memorial Site at Ground Zero, dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania, and an escort from 20th Century Tours.

Optional Additions: (a) A ticket to a Broadway Show (TBA), (b) ticket to the 911 Memorial Museum, and (c) dinner at Carmine's in NYC. Details are available at <http://www.neoea.org/NYC2017.pdf>.

NEOEA Discounts

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

- **Bright Now! Dental:** has been involved in the union community for nearly 40 years and is pleased to be providing the NEOEA an exclusive discount on general and specialty dental care. Whether you have dental benefits or not, you will experience cost savings of up to 35% on general dentistry and 30% on specialty dentistry. This is not an insurance plan. There is no cost to participate and no restrictions. Your choice to receive dental care at one of their offices is voluntary. There are 7 locations in Cleveland making access to one of their offices convenient. Evening and weekend hours are also available. <https://www.brightnow.com/>.
- **Energy Price Choice:** Confused about how and where to get the lowest prices for your natural gas and electricity? <https://energypricechoice.com/NEOEA> is an unbiased energy marketplace that compares energy prices automatically for you. It takes less than 5 minutes to get the best possible price without hours of confusing research and hidden catches.
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>.
- **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>.
- **Best Benefits Club:** 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. Each member must

register individually with the website in order to have access to the discounts. On the website, click on the Login tab near the top of the page. Click on the words REGISTER HERE, and use the activation code NEOEA0613e when filling out the small form that comes up. Users will now be required to make up their own username and password. For answers to BBC questions, you can call BBC at 330-273-5756. The office in Brunswick is open Monday through Friday between 9:00 and 4:00. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>.

- **Playhouse Square:** Tickets at a discounted rate with a flat \$7 handling fee. Use the promotional code FAMTIX; then select "NEOEA". <http://www.playhousesquare.org/ceo>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **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>.

Miss Your News and Views?

NEOEA's newsletter *News and Views* is aimed at active members, but many retired members tell us that they would like to continue receiving it after retirement. Fortunately, there's an easy way to do so: each issue of *News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. First register at <http://neoea.org/register/> -- it's easy and free. Once registered, you'll have access to the Members-Only page, which has recent issues for download.

Looking for More Information?

- NEOEA-Retired – <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
- NEOEA Retired on Facebook
- NEOEA – <http://www.neoea.org/>
- NEOEA on Facebook
- OEA-Retired – <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>
- OEA – Retired on Facebook
- OEA – <http://www.ohea.org/>
- OhioEA on Facebook
- NEA – <http://www.nea.org/>
- NEA Today on Facebook





North Eastern Ohio Education Association
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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Nancy Wanson, Lakewood TA-R, Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R, Vice Chair
- Sherri Koncilja, Painesville City TA-R, Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Past Chair
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R, OEA-R Secretary
- Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R,
OEA-R ESP Representative
- Marsh Buckley, NEOEA Liaison &
OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-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
- Martha Harper, Ashtabula ACSE-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
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R

Address Service Requested

NEOEA Calendar

- March** NEA/OEA Read Across America, various locations throughout the week before and after
- March 21-23** NEA-Retired Organizing Conference – Unite, Inspire, Lead: Still Doing It, Renaissance Hotel, Dallas, Texas
- March 25** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Nordonia High School
- March 28** OEA Lobby Day and Statehouse Reception, Columbus
- April 19** NEOEA-R Spring Conference, NEOEA Conference Center Office, Garfield Heights
- April 19** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Conference Center Office, Garfield Heights

- April 22** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Green Tour, Edgewater Park, Cleveland
- May 6** NEOEA All-Committee Conference, NEOEA Conference Center Office, Garfield Heights
- May 11** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, 7th Floor, STRS, Columbus
- May 12-13** OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus, OH

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 Special Interest Groups

NEOEA maintains eighteen email lists for members who want to receive news and updates from NEOEA on a particular topic. Members can sign up for as many topics as they want. Scan the QR Code to see the lists and sign up.

