



NEOEA -- 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

NEA-Retired Delegate Elections and OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections

The **OEA-Retired election for Spring 2020** is being conducted by Election America. Online voting opens on March 1, 2020, and closes on March 30, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. (eastern).

Election notices will be mailed (and emailed, if on file) to OEA-Retired members with an individual Election Code and Voting PIN (you will need these to vote). For technical assistance with the voting process or to request a paper ballot, please contact Election-America at Help+OEAR@election-america.com or call (877) 466-7875. The deadline to request a paper ballot is March 13, 2020. For questions regarding your membership or election guidelines, please contact William Baird at bairdw@ohea.org.

The Ohio NEA-R delegation consists of nine delegate seats, the Chair, Mary Benegar, is a delegate by virtue of office. There are 23 candidates running for the remaining 8 seats. Ten candidates are from NEOEA; one from Capital; two from Central; two from ECOEA; one from EOEa; one from NCOEA; two from SWOEA; and four from WOEa.

The candidates for **NEA-R Delegate** from NEOEA are: **Barbara Catalano; William A Dorsey; Marti Franks; Peg Ham; Lynnette R Harris; Joyce M Hives; Steven Mitchell; Donna Smoot Walters; Jene Wilson; and Beverly A Woolridge.**

Two candidates are running for the **OEA-R At-Large Representative position on the OEA-R Advisory Council** with a term beginning September 1, 2020 and ending July 14, 2023: **Beverly A Woolridge, NEOEA; and Jane Rahn, WOEa.**

Download the candidate biographical information for **2020 NEA RA Retired Delegate Candidates and OEA-Retired Advisory Council Candidates:**

<http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2020/03/NEA-R-2020.pdf>

It is not necessary to conduct an election for the following OEA-Retired Advisory Council Positions as they were unopposed and elected by acclamation:

- Vice-Chair — Phil Long (WOEA) (Term Ending July 14, 2021)
- Central — Barry Alcock (Term Ending July 14, 2023)
- East Central — Anne Bowles (Term Ending July 14, 2023)
- Western — Sandra Coe (Term Ending July 14, 2022)

Click Here to Vote! <https://vote.election-america.com/oear/>

NEA Presidential Candidate Interviews

Want to hear what the candidates have to say about strong public schools? Visit www.StrongPublicSchools.org to see and hear their views.

NEA invited all presidential candidates to participate in a one-on-one interview with NEA President Lily Eskelsen Garcia to help our members better understand their positions on issues of vital importance to the success of our public schools. To qualify for interviews, candidates were asked to fill out a detailed questionnaire; once complete, candidates were invited to sit down with Lily.

NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

The popular NEOEA Retired Spring Conference will be held on April 16, 2020, at the NEOEA Conference Center. Invite a friend for a continental breakfast, lunch, and meet up with old and new friends. Three Break-out sessions: NEA Member Benefits/Travel, STRS/SERS, and an Author Talk and Book Exchange. The registration form is included in this March newsletter.

Oh, the Places We Go— Grab Your Hat and Read with the Cat

Remember – “You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child.”---Dr. Seuss

We will be celebrating NEA's READ ACROSS AMERICA during the month of March 2020. We will read to students across NEOEA. Retired readers are needed to read in classrooms, libraries, or at other events where children are gathered. Plan to join us. You pick the day, the time, and the place. Invite another retired members to join you. We want you to have a wonderful RAA experience showing students that the joy of reading is a lifelong skill. More information and ideas at: <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/read-across-america/> and <http://www.nea.org/grants/886.htm>. If you can spend some time in this fun experience contact Beryl Burkle at 330-659-3928 for helpful information.



OEA February Board of Directors Report

By Carol Kinsey,
OEA-R OEA Board of Directors

I am beginning this Board of Directors Report with TWO OEA CALLS TO ACTION!!!! Your presence is needed to help make a difference. Strength through unity and numbers can be very powerful!

Wednesday, March 18, 2020. You are requested to assemble at the Statehouse in downtown Columbus for a statewide **Educator Red for Ed Rally** set to begin at 3:00 pm. This is not just for OEA members but for all who support public education and are impacted by current state legislation which is making their jobs challenging. This Rally will include administrators, Board of Education members, parents fighting Ed Choice, etc. For more specific details which are still being finalized, please check the OEA website for updates at www.ohea.org closer to the date.

Wednesday, March 25, 2020. Please join active and student OEA members from across Ohio to participate in an **OEA Lobby Day**. Make appointments with your legislators beginning now for that day. Begin your day at the OEA Building at 9:00 AM for a briefing on the current status of issues to be discussed. Then walk down to the Statehouse for your appointments.

Retirees are needed to actively participate in both of these events due to our historical perspective on issues we have faced during our careers. OEA-R members frequently say "we have retired from our position but never from our profession. We are committed to whatever we can do to continue to support the preservation of PUBLIC EDUCATION!" These are opportunities to do just that!

ALL OEA members, including retirees, are strongly encouraged to consider donating to the **OEA Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE)**. This can be done by going to the OEA secure site <https://ohea.org/donate>. There is the capability to make a one-time donation or a continuing donation just like payroll deduction during active years.

The Board of Directors held their Annual Winter Retreat and Board meeting last weekend. We had a staff person from NEA

with us Friday night and Saturday as we began working on establishing a strategic priority on racial and social justice. The NEA Trainer will be returning for our March meeting as we continue this important work and awareness. On Saturday afternoon the Board traveled to the Family Mentor Foundation in Columbus where 2,325 "buddy boxes" to feed area students who face weekend food shortages were assembled. This was followed by a group dinner with both afternoon/evening activities affording opportunities to interact socially and get to know each other better. The Board meeting was held on Sunday.

Also from the OEA Board:

The stipend for OEA-R Delegates to the NEA-R Annual Business Meeting and RA in Atlanta this summer has been set at \$2136. State at Large actives will receive \$1624.

There was also a unanimous vote by the BOD to support the potential ballot issue regarding increasing the Ohio minimum wage. This will not only help 1.4 million workers in Ohio but will be a catalyst to help increase the wages of our ESP members.

As always please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or concerns you may have. Call 330-495-2318 or email Cskinsey@aol.com. Most of the concerns I receive are regarding STRS and I am happy to forward those to help you receive factual information but I am not qualified to answer them. I refer those to OEA-R member Rita Walters who serves as one of the two Retired Trustees on the STRS Board OR to OEA Lobbyist Robert Davis who is assigned to retiree issues OR to Nick Treneff who is the STRS Director of Communications.

Calling All Quilters

From Sarah Borgman, NEA-R
Calling all quilters! How does this celebrated American art form help tell the story of culture and tradition, family, and community?

The staff at NEA TODAY for Retired Members would like to write an article on quilters and our quilt activity. If you know any member who quilts, please tell them to contact Cindy Long at clong@nea.org. She really wants some first hand information. PLEASE send this message to your members.

Form a Retired Chapter at Your Former Local

Sample local constitution and bylaws language for retired members and a local retired organizing committee.

Constitution

Article – Membership Section. Any person who has retired under one of the state retirement systems from a local association bargaining unit position and is not otherwise eligible for active membership shall be considered a "retired" member. Retired members are not eligible to vote or hold office, but may serve on association committees and may attend association events as provided in the bylaws.

Section. All members, including retired members, shall abide by the Code of Ethics of the Education Profession.

Bylaws

Article - Dues, Membership And Expulsion Section. Retired members may attend association events; and upon paying annual local dues of one-third the local active dues, may serve on association committees.

Article - Association Committees
There shall be the following standing committees:

Retired Organizing Committee – plans and conducts fundraising and other events for access retirees, guests, and other access members and maintains communication with access retirees. Retired members of the retired organizing committee may vote on committee business and hold office within the committee. The chairperson of the retired organizing committee will be a non-voting member of the executive committee.

Co-ops, Compost, and Crafts

Join the Environmental Concerns Committee on Saturday, April 18, 2020, in Youngstown for our family-friendly Green Tour! A free NEOEA water bottle will be given to each participant. Limited to 20 participants.

- Learn about backyard composting from the Mahoning Valley Green Team— make a miniature compost bin to begin

brainstorming the larger version you can create for your home.

- Visit the Youngstown Commonwealth to experience some of the revitalization their programming has to offer the local community. Purchase some local produce.
- Learn how to pickle with The Food Shed. Bring your own canning jar and plan to use some purchased produce to make perfect pickles.
- Lunch and on-the-spot composting at Cultivate Café. Lunch is on your own, but plan to share your take-aways with the group.
- End the day, if you'd like, and enjoy a craft (beer) at Nobel Creature Cask House.

We'll meet up at 9:00 at Culture House Coffee (818 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505) to begin the day's activities. Bring your own refillable mug to and buy some delicious in-house roasted coffee, support the local economy, and honor the learning of the day.

Registration form at <https://www.neoea.org/GreenTour.pdf>. Deadline April 10.

Become a College Now Mentor

College Now Greater Cleveland is seeking 100 more mentor for its incoming freshmen class of 2020-2021 college scholarship recipients, including the Say Yes Cleveland cohort. As a mentor, you email your mentee twice a month and meet three times a year. Mentors provide advice, guidance, and support to students, many of whom are first in their families to attend college. Such a small investment of time pays huge dividends – College Now students graduate at a rate 20 percentage points higher than their peers nationally!

When you become a mentor, you join more than 1,600 other Cleveland professionals from over 500 employers working to change outcomes for individual students, break the cycle of poverty in Cleveland, and invest in our future workforce. Be someone who matters to someone who matters – mentor!

By signing up today, you can help ensure that these ambitious students have the support they need to succeed! Apply at https://collegenowgc.chronus.com/p/collegenow/membership_requests/new by April 1st to be

considered for a match in summer 2020. Once your application is complete, a staff member of College Now will contact you about the next steps.

Contact Jabari Dorsey at 216.635.0268 or jdorsey@collegenowgc.org for more information.

Note: This is a separate mentor program. It is not the NEA/OEA-R program for education students.

Educator Appreciation Night at Progressive Field

The Cleveland Indians would like to show appreciation for local teachers and educational professionals through a special offer at Progressive Field. Celebrate with family, friends and fellow educators!

May 15th vs Twins at 7:10 PM

- Lower Box \$47
- Family Deck \$24
- Upper Reserved \$19
- Sugardale Dollar Dog Night
- Pregame in the District
- Fireworks

To purchase tickets:

www.groupmatics.events/TribeEdNight2020

Order Deadline: Friday, May 1st

For orders over 8 tickets, please contact

Group Service: 216.420.4478

NEOEA Discounts

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

- **OEA and NEA Member-Only Benefits:** <https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>.
- **OEA Attorney Referral Program:** login at the OEA Member Services page for free half hour and 30% discount. <https://www.ohea.org/legal-services>.
- **Bedrooms Today:** 50% off regular price of any furniture or bedding item. Be sure to show your employee ID or a copy of the discount letter. <http://www.neoea.org/2019-01-BedroomsToday.pdf>
- **Best Benefits Club** offers activities throughout the year such as

- Special family weekends at Cedar Point, and the IX Center where the discount or added value is even greater than their usual benefit.
- Regal Cinema, Cinemark Tickets and certain amusement parks are available through the on-line shopping cart.
- And other tickets are available as an e-ticket program, such as Playhouse Square, Cedar Point and Kings Island.
- Kalahari Resort Day Pass Pre-Order Sale happens three times a year—the next coming in October.
- There are discounts on zoos, amusement parks, hotels, rental cars, and much more available to our members!
- Each person must register individually with the website in order to have access to the discounts.
- On the website <http://www.bbcmember.com/>, click on the Login tab near the top of the page. Click on the words REGISTER HERE and use the activation code NEOEA0613 when filling out the small form that comes up. Users will now be required to make up their own username and password. Please enter NEOEA as your company name where required.
- 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.
- **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? EnergyPriceChoice.com/NEOEA is an



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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R; Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R; Vice Chair
- Sherri Koncilja, Painesville City TA-R; Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R; Past Chair
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R; NEOEA Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R; OEA-R Secretary
- Barbara Catalano, Mayfield EA-R; OEA-R ESP Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R; web/newsletter editor
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Rhonda Braylock, East Cleveland EA-R
- Marsh Buckley, Mentor TA-R
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R
- Dave Ciborek, Twinsburg EA-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
- Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
- Martha Dunford, Perry EA-R
- Sue Fatica, Painesville City TA-R
- Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R
- Patricia Frost-Brooks, East Cleveland EA-R
- Martha Harper, Ashtabula ACSE-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Bill Lavezzi, Aurora EA-R
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
- Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
- Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R
- Jene Wilson, ACCESS-R

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.. <https://neoea.org/announce/energy-price-choice/>.

- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>.
- **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** Refinance and consolidate your student loans. <https://www.neoea.org/ohedu-loan.pdf>
- **Park Place** (discount airport parking): Enjoy free days, bottled water, free car washes, and guaranteed parking. Sign up for your discount card before your next flight! (Map to Park Place). <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **PlayhouseSquare:** With their Corporate Exclusive Online (CEO) ticketing program, you'll receive discounts, pre-sales, one flat fee, select your seat, and 24/7 access! <https://www.neoea.org/CEOtickets.pdf>
- **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>.

NEA & OEA Discounts

Enjoy financial programs and discounts offered by **NEA Member Benefits:** For questions call 1.800.637.4636 (toll free); <https://www.neamb.com/> .

NEA Click & Save, <http://www.neamb.com/clickandsave>.

OEA ACCESS, <https://ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>.

Retirement System Updates

- STRS <https://www.strsoh.org/>
- SERS <https://www.ohsers.org/>
- PERS <https://www.opers.org/>

Need to Update Your Contact Information?

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

NEOEA Calendar

- March** Read Across America, various schools and libraries across northeastern Ohio
- March 7** NEOEA Megaconference, Corporate College East
- April 16** NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference, NEOEA Office
- April 16** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office
- April 18** NEOEA Environmental Green Tour, Youngstown Area
- April 25** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Cuyahoga Falls
- May 2** NEOEA All Committee Conference , NEOEA Office
- May 8-9** OEA Representative Assembly, Columbus
- June 5** NEOEA Committees on the Go, NEOEA Office