



NEOEA -- Retired

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

Read Across America 2023 "READ LOCALLY, READ GLOBALLY"

You can access the OEA-Retired Read Across America library of educators reading books for school kids on OEA's website: <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oear-read-across-america/>. Download OEA-R RAA Flyer at <http://oear.ohea.us/files/2022/12/RAA.jpg>.

If you would like to record your reading at OEA Headquarters or you know of an educator author, please send the name, title of the book, and contact information to Phil A. Long — palcisvl3@gmail.com. Tips for recording your own video: http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2023/02/Cell-Phone-Video-Recording-Requirements_RAA_2023-2.pdf

Lets get ready to motivate children to read and generate new enthusiasm for reading!

NEOEA-Retired Read Across America

By Beryl Burkle, NEOEA-R Organizing Committee

We did it before and I know we can do it again! Join the Outreach Committee of NEOEA-R and make plans for another adventure reading to children for our Read Across America Program. We are planning to read during March 1-31. We will read in schools, libraries and any places children are gathered. That is what has given us the title "Oh, the Places We Go".

Retires are invited to volunteer to read at schools and libraries near you. You make the arrangements to read and let us know where you are going OR ask an active teacher who would like to have you come to their classrooms and read. Please let me know who you are and where you are going to read. Ernestine Davis usually invites teachers in to read in East Cleveland. Many of you have read in many schools, libraries and churches to celebrate Read Across America. Steven Mitchell of NEOEA has authored a book of his own that I'm sure you can find at the library.

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

Join us in this fun!!!! This is an activity we can all participate in.

Any questions please call me at 330-659-3928. Let me know where you are reading.

Thank you, Beryl Burkle, berylburkle@gmail.com

Retired Spring Conference 2023

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. Join us for our VIRTUAL and INTERACTIVE format — your opportunity to participate in a variety of topics — and all from the comfort of your own home. Sponsored by the NEOEA Retired Organizing Committee. Download flyer: <https://neoea.org/files/RetiredSpringConf2023.pdf>. Register by March 17!

SCHEDULE

Our conference will start at 9:00 a.m. with a few welcoming words and announcements. Then we'll begin our sessions:

- Scott DiMauro, OEA President
- Legislative Update by OEA Vice President Jeff Wensing
- STRS Update by Tamla Cole / SERS Update by Cameron Vaughn
- NEA Member Benefits by Guy Kendall-Freas
- Patrick Shepherd from Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF 47) and Film Slam.

Join us for our virtual and interactive format — your opportunity to participate in a variety of topics. Plus you'll have a chance to win door prizes!

Join us for FilmSlam on Thursday, March 30! The FilmSlam screening begins at 9:30 a.m. (you'll want to be in your seat by 9:00) and will include a choice of one film followed by a 15-20 minute filmmaker Q&A. You will have a choice to view a feature film, cultural cinema short films, Spanish language cinema short films, and French language short films. You will need to register for your film; we'll have the details and registration link in February.

You will also receive two vouchers to attend screenings at the Cleveland International Film Festival later that day. Be sure to include your \$20 registration fee (see Mary Alice at FilmSlam where you will receive your \$20 back plus your vouchers for the entry to the Cleveland International Film Festival [CIFF 47]). More details about CIFF and FilmSlam at <https://www.clevelandfilm.org/>.

Not Getting NEOEA-R Emails?

If you previously UNSUBSCRIBED from any NEOEA-R or NEOEA email, your email was unsubscribed from ALL of our lists and you will NOT receive any information.

Newsletters and Bulletins are sent by email. Only the October and March newsletters are sent by US Mail.

Please Re-Subscribe.



NEA-Retired Delegate Elections OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections

The **OEA-Retired election for Spring 2023** is being conducted by Election America. Online voting opens on March 1, 2023, and closes on March 30, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EST.

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. For questions regarding your membership or election guidelines, please contact William Baird at bairdw@ohea.org.

The Ohio NEA-R delegation to the NEA Representative Assembly on July 3 - 6, 2023 in Orlando, FL consists of seven delegate seats, the Chair, Mary Binegar, is a delegate by virtue of office. There are 25 candidates running for the remaining 6 seats. Six candidates are from NEOEA; seven from WOEa; five from SWOEa; two from ECOEA; two from NCOEA; two from Central; and one from Capital.

NEA-R Delegate candidates from NEOEA:

- **Marsh Buckley, Mentor TA-R**
- **William A Dorsey, Painesville City TA**
- **Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R**
- **Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R**
- **Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R**
- **Jené Wilson, ACCESS-R**

**OEA-Retired Advisory Council Positions:
AT-LARGE – OEA-R AC Representative:**

- **Jeff Corbin, CAPITAL**
- **Carol Kinsey, ECOEA**
- **Becky Mayer-Radel, NCOEA**
- **Chuck Steinbower, CENTRAL**

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Positions:

- **ESP – OEA-R AC Representative**
- **Higher Education – OEA-R AC Representative**

Note: Terms for the above non-vacancy seats are effective starting July 15, 2023 and ending on July 14, 2026. The vacancy for ESP will fulfill a term ending July 14, 2025. The vacancy for HE will fulfill a term ending July 14, 2023.

The above offices serve as an automatic delegate to the OEA Representative Assembly and Respective District Representative Assembly by virtue of office. The OEA-Retired Chair serves as an automatic delegate to the NEA Representative Assembly by virtue of office.

Download the candidate biographical information for **OEA-Retired 2023 Election** (expand last item): <https://www.ohea.org/retired/>.

OEA-R Spring Conference

Save the date: June 7, 2023, Malabar Farm, Lucas OH – \$25. Sponsored by NCOEA and NWOEA.

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee

By Donna Smoot Walters, NEOEA-R Rep
OEA-R Advisory Council

On behalf of OEA-R Advisory Council I want to offer you a way to become more engaged with the active members of NEOEA. You have the opportunity to be a retired representative who will be invited to your area Leadership Council meetings (near home or where you retired from.). Email Mary Alice Conkey (conkey@neoea.org) and she will add you to the list.

Follow STRS at <https://www.strsoh.org/social/>. STRS will be speaking out against misinformation about STRS on Social Media.

Members need to support Arthur Lard for reelection as an Active Educator on the STRS Board. Contact colleagues who are still working.

OEA-R will be sponsoring video sessions for retirees and actives about In-District/Virtual Lobbying in the future. The plan is to hold these after school hours – stay tuned for more information.

Active educators at any stage of your career are encouraged to join Pre-Retired OEA-R. Members can access the form at <https://oear.ohea.us/>

Thank you for your help with getting the word out about the great work NEOEA-R is doing!

NEOEA Legislative Receptions

Mark your calendar for our annual Legislative Receptions--Monday, March 20. It will be held in-person simultaneously at four locations in northeastern Ohio so that you'll have a chance to meet with your legislators. Download flyer: <https://neoea.org/files/LegislativeReception.pdf>

OEA Legislative Watch

OEA Legislative Watch is the association's newsletter covering the legislation and policies that affect public education employees. <https://www.ohea.org/get-involved/legislative-watch/>. Open an article and click on the "OEA Action Alert" link to send a message to your legislator.

- February 24 — House Bill 33—State Operating Budget Additional Policy Review ; Senate Bill 14—Allows Certain Veterans to Teach Without Educator License.
- February 17 — House Leadership Announces "Priority Bills"; Senate Bill 47; Senate Bill 49; Congressional Bills Push for Teacher Pay Increases.
- February 7 — Budget Edition #2.
- February 4 — Budget Edition #1.

OEA Retirement Systems Update

OEA Retirement Systems Updates at <https://www.ohea.org/resources/affiliate-resources/>

- February 2023:
 - * OEA Endorses Arthur Lard for Re-election to STRS Board;
 - * Faber Audit of STRS Finds No Evidence of Fraud;
 - * Two Vie for SERS Board Seat

Cleveland Guardians 2023 Education Days

Enjoy a pregame educational program at Progressive Field and catch an afternoon Guardians game!

- STEM Fair - Wednesday, May 20
 - Weather Ed Day - Wednesday, May 24
- Download the Flyer at <https://neoea.org/files/23-Education-Days.pdf>

Join us at Playhouse Square with NEOEA Discounts

NEOEA members have discounts for highly-anticipated shows in the KeyBank Broadway Series:

- **Rivertance**, March 3 - 5, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre;
- **Disney's Aladdin**, March 8-12, 2023 at Connor Palace;
- **Tina: The Tina Turner Musical**, April 25 -May 14, 2023 at Connor Palace;
- **Dear Evam Hansen**, May 16-21, 2023 at Connor Palace;
- **Moulin Rouge! The Musical**, June 7 - July 2, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre;
- **Come From Away**, July 25-30, 2023 at Connor Palace ;

Use promo code NEOEA and save up to 65% off select performances and seating locations with reduced handling fees! GET TICKETS: <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp>

Arthur Lard for STRS Board - Contributing Member

Please urge your colleagues that are active STRS members to vote for Arthur Lard in the upcoming STRS Board Election.

The OEA Board of Directors has endorsed Arthur Lard for reelection to the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) Board representing active (contributing) teachers.

Lard is a Business Education teacher in Portsmouth City Schools with 30 years of experience and has served as treasurer of his local association for more than 20 years. This background has served him well as an OEA representative on STRS Board since 2019.

"STRS is the cornerstone of our financial security in retirement," Lard said in his remarks to the OEA Fall 2022 Representative Assembly.

"During my time on the STRS Board, the plan's funding status has improved, making our pension benefits more secure. We have been able to improve the solvency of the health care plan so it will be there for current and future retirees. And we have lowered health care premiums and provided rebates to retirees.

"This fiscal year, we were able to pay a 3% COLA and were able to do away with the age 60 requirement for retirement eligibility. All of this while paying out around \$7 billion in retirement benefits a year."

Ballots will be mailed in early April to eligible voters at their home address. Votes can be cast by mail, phone or online. The deadline for voting is May 1, 2022.

OEA FCPE is Now The OEA Fund

The name has changed. "The OEA Fund for Children and Public Education" is simplified to "The OEA Fund". Some will remember when it started as "Educators Political Action Committee (EPAC)".

Help raise money to elect pro-senior, pro-union, pro-education candidates. It's quick and easy to donate electronically. Go to: <https://www.ohea.org/> and click on the DONATE button at the top of the page or click here: <https://www.ohea.org/donate/>.

OEA Action Alerts

Every day OEA works to improve public education for our students and our members. Our strength lies in collective action. With over 122,000 members, we can affect policy to improve public education for students and the educators who serve them.

Letters, emails, petitions, and phone calls from you often make the crucial difference.

Go to the OEA website to view sample letters you can edit as you wish before sending to your legislator.

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.

Also online: <https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/>.

OEA-Retired on the Web

OEA-R has a presence on the OEA website at: <https://www.ohea.org/retired/>. If you get lost, pull down the "MEMBER CENTER" tab and click on "OEA Divisions, Affiliated Departments and Associate Organizations", then "Divisions", then "OEA-Retired".

On the page is a link to the original OEA-R website containing all the essential OEA-R information <http://oea-r.ohea.us/>. Need a form to join OEA-Retired? <http://oea-r.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/>

Miss Your News and Views?

Each issue of the *NEOEA News and Views* is available online at <http://neoea.org/>. Pull down "About Us" at the top of the page and click on "News & Views."

Feel free to explore the other features of the site. First register at <https://neoea.org/joinreq> — it's easy and free.

NEOEA Discounts

Visit <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>.

- **Bedrooms Today:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/2019-01-BedroomsToday.pdf>.
- **Best Benefits Club:** <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/>. Use activation code **NEOEA0613** and company name **NEOEA**. Benefit flyer <https://bestbenefitsclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/e-news6.3.pdf>.
- **Bright Now! Dental:** <http://www.brightnowdental.com/>. <https://neoea.org/files/BrightNowFlyer.pdf>.
- **Liberty Mutual:** https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea?src=aff_4wpb_m_0006967_neoea.
- **Ohio Educational Credit Union:** <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ohecu-loan.pdf>.
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking: <https://neoea.org/MemberData/ParkPlace.pdf>.
- **Playhouse Square:** <https://tickets.playhousesquare.org/g04/Online/default.asp> (promo code NEOEA).
- **Great Lakes Science Center:** <https://greatscience.com/educators>.



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NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:

- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R; Chairperson
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R; Vice Chair
- Sherri Koncilia, Painesville City TA-R; Secretary
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R; Past Chair
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R; NEOEA Liaison & OEA-R NEOEA Representative
- 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
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Martha Harper, Ashtabula ACSE-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Joyce Hives, East Cleveland EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Teri Mackey, Wadsworth EA-R
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
- Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
- Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R
- Jenè Wilson, ACCESS-R
- Beverly Woolridge, Akron ACP-R

NEA & OEA Discounts

<https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-benefits/>

- **NEA Member Benefits:** For questions call 1.800.637.4636 (toll free); <https://www.neamb.com/>.
- **NEA Student Debt Navigator:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-student-debt-navigator>.
- **NEA Travel Dollars**—Enroll in NEA Travel and receive \$500 Travel Dollars to use like cash when you book a vacation. <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-travel-dollars>.
- **NEA Discount Marketplace:** <https://www.neamb.com/products/nea-discount-marketplace>.
- **OEA ACCESS:** <https://ohea.accessdevelopment.com/>.
- **OEA/NEA Attorney Referral and Discount Information:** <https://neoea.org/files/ARP.pdf>.
- **NEOEA Member Benefits:** <https://neoea.org/Education-Union/Member-Benefits>.

STRS Ohio's eUPDATE

Does STRS Ohio have your email address? If not you are missing eUPDATES. Register for eUPDATES: <https://www.strsoh.org/resources/personal-acct/email-registration.html>

Just last month STRS Ohio sent:

February 17 —

- Welcome to Alison Lanza Falls , Ohio Treasurer appointment.
- Retirement Board Looks at Pension Benefits Provided Elsewhere:
- Report Shows STRS Ohio Investment Returns Rank High.
- Board Reviews STRS Ohio's Enterprise Risk Management.

February 1 —

- Social Media Spreads False Information About STRS Ohio Benefits;

Reports at: https://www.strsoh.org/aboutus/board/materials.html?utm_source=esp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Board News %2848-982%29&utm_content=Retirement Board Meeting Materials

NEOEA Calendar

<http://neoea-r.ohea.us/calendar/>

- March** Read Across America, Various locations throughout the month
- March 4** NEOEA Megaconference, CCC Corporate College East
- March 20** NEOEA Legislative Receptions, Four Locations in Northeastern Ohio
- March 28** NEOEA-R Spring Conference, Virtual
- March 28** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, Virtual
- April 22** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Mayfield HS
- May 12** OEA-Retired Delegate Assembly, STRS
- May 12-13** OEA Representative Assembly, Greater Columbus Convention Center

