



NEOEFA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <https://www.neoea.org/> -- <https://neoea-r.ohea.us/>
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September 2023

Hank Haynes, Editor

Public Education Matters Day

A Celebration of Public Education with OEA Members, September 30, 2023. Join together with OEA members across the state to celebrate public education! Fun, food, and activities for members, family and friends. FREE FOOD! FREE TICKETS! FREE SWAG! at each location. <https://www.ohea.org/publiceducationmatters>

- Toledo Zoo and Aquarium
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Newport Aquarium, Cincinnati

After you register, watch for a confirmation email with full event instructions.

*Up to 4 Free tickets for the first 250 registered members at each location. Discounted tickets available for additional guests. Free swag while supplies last for members.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo

UPDATE: All free admission tickets and wristbands for the OEA Member Celebration lunch have now been claimed. Discounted tickets to enjoy the day at the zoo with your family and friends may still be purchased until September 15th*

You are welcome to enjoy the whole day at the zoo with your family and friends as OEA celebrates Public Education Matters Day on September 30th. Gates open at 10 a.m. Free swag is available to all OEA members while supplies last.

Discounted tickets to enjoy the day at the zoo can be purchased for \$13.50/each. The deadline to purchase these discounted tickets is September 15th.

Members can pick up their tickets outside the Zoo's front gate when they arrive. There will be an additional special gift for the first 50 Members at Stillwater Place.

Parking is free at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

*The event schedule is subject to change slightly. Please check back for any updates before you join us at the Zoo on September 30th. [CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE DISCOUNTED TICKETS](#) for CLEVELAND ZOO; <https://cvent.me/mLyywd9>

OEA-Retired Delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly

If you wish to be a candidate for OEA-Retired delegate to the OEA Representative Assembly, you must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by September 20, 2023. Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information. You may download the form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>.

OEA-R Delegates also attend the OEA-R Delegate Assembly prior to each OEA Representative assembly. OEA-R Delegates from NEOEA also attend the NEOEA Representative Assemblies.

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Higher Education Vacancy

There is one vacancy on the OEA-R Advisory Council that is open to NEOEA-R members:

- **Higher Education** – OEA-Retired Advisory Council Representative; (Term ending July 14, 2025)

You must file a Declaration of Candidacy form by September 20, 2023. Contact William Baird at OEA (800) 282-1500 or (614) 227-3169 for more information. You may download the form at: <http://oea-r.ohea.us/page/election-information/>.

Educator Night at Cleveland Play House—Thurgood

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 7:00PM ALLEN THEATRE

Join other educators and gather together to have a night that is dedicated to YOU!

The Story of "Mr. Civil Rights." Armed with the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall devoted his life to championing justice and equality for all people. This biographical play spans his remarkable 58-year career, while highlighting his warmth and sharp wit. A powerful tour-de-force about Marshall's transformative journey from his early days as a young lawyer upending the landmark "separate but equal" decision to his time serving on the highest court in the nation. Starring film, TV, and regional theatre veteran Lester Puny, Thurgood is an inspiring tribute to a real American hero who embodied courage, integrity, and determination.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW—216-241-6000

<https://www.clevelandplayhouse.com/>

USE PROMO CODE **EDUTHR** TO GET \$25 TICKETS



New York City on a Budget NEOEA Day Weekend October 13-15, 2023

Although NEOEA Day (October 13, 2023) 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 returning annual tour to "New York City on a Budget," now is the time to make your reservation.

The New York City tour includes deluxe motor coach transportation, two nights at the Courtyard New York Manhattan/Times Square/West in New York City, baggage handling for one bag, a guided city tour, breakfast at our hotel each morning, dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania, and an escort from 20th Century Tours.

The cost per person based on double occupancy is \$750 two beds, \$725 king bed (single occupancy is \$1,038, triple occupancy is \$650, and quad occupancy is \$585). More details and the reservation form are available at neoea.org/files/NYC2023.pdf.

NEOEA Day—October 13, 2023

Check out the NEOEA Day Catalog: <https://neoea.org/files/ND2023.pdf>

NEOEA Day represents your dues dollars at work: those dollars pay for the preparation, production, and distribution of the catalog, and some programs receive grants paid from your dues dollars.

Attending NEOEA Day programs, most of which provide growth opportunities at lower-than-usual prices, is an excellent way to get some of your NEOEA dues dollars back!

The catalog is divided into two main sections:

- "Professional development" refers to things that make us more effective on the job. This was one of the original purposes of our organization when it was founded as NEOTA back in 1869, and it still comprises the largest portion of our NEOEA Day offerings.
- "Personal development" refers to items intended to enrich the lives of members both on and off the job.

OEA-R Fall Conference

The OEA-Retired 2023 Fall Conference is sponsoring three virtual webinars in October 2023. This year will feature five OEA active and retired members sharing their stories of courage and determination against adversity.

Join us virtually on Zoom on Wednesdays, October 11th, 18th, and 25th at 5pm-6:30pm for an hour and half of inspiration and commitment to advocacy for public education.

Click here to register for the OEA-Retired 2023 Virtual Fall Conference. <https://www.ohea.org/oea-retired-fall-conference/>

Upcoming Conferences!

Are you interested in attending NEA or state conferences? Contact a colleague and plan on attending.

- ESP National Conference is March 22-24, 2024, in Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Higher Education Conference is March 15-17, 2024, tentatively scheduled for Atlanta, Georgia.
- Minority Leadership Training is January 26-28, 2024, in Baltimore, Maryland.
- Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals is April 26-27, 2024 (location to be determined).

Buckeye Book Fair

The 36th Annual Buckeye Fair will be held on Saturday, November 4 at the Greystone Event Center in Wooster, Ohio from 9:30 - 4:00.

A day for readers to meet the authors and authors to meet their readers! Over 100 authors and illustrators will meet readers and sign copies of their latest books at the 36th annual Buckeye Book Fair in Wooster. The book fair has books for sale, author speakers, and literary activities for all ages. For more information, go to <https://buckeyebookfair.org/>

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee

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

OEA-R Advisory Council is offering Retired members the opportunity to become more engaged with the Active members of NEOEA. As a NEOEA-R member you will be invited to your area **Leadership Council Meetings**. Thanks to all of the NE Retired members who have already volunteered...there are only 4 seats available:

1. CASSY 43; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, HiEd, Units 5, 8, 9E;
2. Northeast; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3 Units 5, 6, 9E;
3. Tri-County; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, Units 5, 8, 9E
4. Western Reserve; includes ESP, Minority, NEA3, Units 8, 9E

Would you please consider representing NEOEA-R in a Council near you? Email Mary Alice Conkey, conkey@neoea.org, she will be able to submit your name to receive an invitation to the meeting. You will receive talking points for each meeting.

Action Response Team (ART) Member positions were created to help assist OEA-Retired Districts with membership engagement, civic engagement, and supporting active locals. OEA-Retired believes that engaging potential members and supporting OEA-R activists will lead to increase in membership and situate OEA-Retired as a leading voice for education retirement issues. Please express your interest by emailing Phil Long, palcisv13@gmail.com.

Read Across America, Theme for 2023-24: "READ FOR DEMOCRACY" - books about voting and leaders of democracy. Consider sharing your favorite book by recording the book for OEA-R's virtual library. Contact Phil Long, palcisv13@gmail.com to get more information. Visit the OEA-R Virtual Library - <https://www.ohea.org/resources/all/oea-read-across-america/>

Thank you for volunteering and helping NEOEA-R to be relevant, engaged, and visible.



Wanted: NEOEA-R Newsletter and Website Editor

After eighteen years, Hank Haynes is retiring from his position as NEOEA-R Newsletter and Website Editor.

- This newsletter is published in September, October, January, March, and June. It is set up on MS Publisher, then posted and distributed as a PDF on the NEOEA-R website and summarized and emailed using Constant Contact to NEOEA-R members and other association leaders. The October and March issues are also printed and mailed to NEOEA retirees who are members of OEA-R.
- The NEOEA-R website (<https://neoea-r.ohea.us/>) is run on the OEA WordPress server with technical assistance from Darren Clum, OEA Data Information Systems Specialist .

Anyone interested in taking over should contact Mary Alice Conkey, NEOEA Executive Director.

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.

- August 4 – OEA Summary of Final Budget Bill.
- July 10 – Important Reminder for the August Special Election.
- July 3 – Final Budget Bill Includes Fair School Funding Plan, Increase in State Teacher Minimum Salary, and Universal Expansion of the EdChoice Voucher Program.
- June 20 – Ohio Senate Passes Budget Bill; Trans Sports Ban (HB 6) Joined with Gender Transition Prohibition Bill (HB 68).
- June 12 – Senate Budget Plan Fails to Prioritize Ohio's Public-School Students and Educators.
- May 30 – Reminder: Next OEA Member Lobby Day; Educating for Ohio's Future Coalition Statehouse Day of Action.

OEA Retirement Systems Update

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

- July 2023 OEA Retirement Systems Update
 - SERS Anti-Spiking Provision Included in State Budget
- June 2023 OEA Retirement Systems Update
 - STRS to Continue Retirement Eligibility at 34 Years, Provide 1% COLA in FY '24
 - STRS Board Weighs Possible Benefit Enhancement
 - OPERS Funding Status Holding Steady

Join us at Playhouse Square with NEOEA Discounts

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

- **SIX THE MUSICAL** – Aug. 8-Sept. 10, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **Natasha, Pierre and The Great Comet Of 1812** – Sept. 22-Oct. 8, 2023 at Hanna Theatre
- **The Wiz** – October 3-22, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **Nurse Blake: Shock Advised Tour** – October 25, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **The Book of Mormon** – October 24-29, 2023 at KeyBank State Theatre
- **Dracula: The Bloody Truth** – Oct. 20-Nov. 5, 2023 at Hanna Theatre
- **Girl From the North Country** – Oct. 31-Nov. 19, 2023 at Connor Palace
- **A Christmas Carol** – Nov. 24, 2023 - Dec. 23, 2023 at Mimi Ohio Theatre
- **Agatha Christie's Murder on The Orient Express** – Feb 9-Mar. 3, 2024 at Hanna Theatre
- **The Merry Wives of Windsor** – Mar. 22-Apr. 7, 2024 at Hanna Theatre
- **Always...Patsy Cline** – April. 26-May 19, 2024 at Hanna Theatre

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>

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>.
- **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>.

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>.



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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
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
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
Becky Higgins, Copley TA-R
Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
Teri Mackey, Wadsworth EA-R
Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R
Steven Mitchell, East Cleveland EA-R
Tom Moscovic, Willoughby-Eastlake TA-R
Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
Jené Wilson, ACCESS-R

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](https://www.strsoh.org/resources/personal-acct/email-registration.html)

STRS Ohio Reflections Series

Watch videos of STRS members reflecting on
teaching and their careers: [https://
www.strsoh.org/resources/newsroom/2023/
member-reflections-series.html](https://www.strsoh.org/resources/newsroom/2023/member-reflections-series.html).

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/](https://www.ohea.org/member-center/member-update-form/).

Active educators at any stage of their career
are encouraged to join pre-retired OEA-R.
Members can access the forms at [http://oear-
r.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/](http://oear.ohea.us/join/how-to-join/)

NEOEA Calendar

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

- Sept 2-4** Labor Day Parades
in your community
- Sept 20** OEA-R Delegates Declaration
of Candidacy Forms due to
OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- Oct 11, 18, 25** OEA-R Fall Conference
- Oct 13** NEOEA Day, Various
Locations
- Oct 14** OAESP Conference
- Nov 11** NEOEA Representative.
Assembly (Harding HS,
Warren)
- Dec 2** OEA Representative.
Assembly