



# NEOEERetired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- [retired@neoea.org](mailto:retired@neoea.org)  
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330 -- Phone: 216/518-0200, 800/354-6794 Fax: 216/518-0202

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Hank Haynes, Editor

## 2015 OEA-R—NEOEERetired Spring Conference

Mark your calendars. NEOEA-R will hold its sixth **Spring Retired Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on May 12, 2015. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited. Bring a friend! Download a NEOEA-R 2015 Spring Conference flyer/ registration form at <http://neoea-r.oea.us/files/2014/02/RetiredSpringConf2015.pdf>

### Schedule:

9:30 - Registration & Continental Breakfast;

10:00 - Introductions & Welcome;

Breakout session choices:

- A. Health Care Utilization, Tamla Cole, STRS
- B. What I Want My Loved Ones to Know, Guy Kendall-Freas, NEA Member Benefits
- C. OEA Legislative Update, Scott DiMauro, OEA VP
- D. Travel Tips for Retirees, Roland Winzer, European Adventures.

10:30 - First Breakout Session;

11:35 - Second Breakout Session;

12:30 - Lunch, Door Prizes, NEAMB ice cream social

1:30 - Visit to Canal Exploration Center (optional/no cost)

**Afternoon Adventure** — Visit the newly-renovated, interactive Canal Exploration Center at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Learn how the canal and lock system influenced Ohio's growth. <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/canal-exploration-center.htm>

## OEA-FCPE — Legislative Update

The Governor will propose his budget next month. OEA will analyze the budget, review the OEA Legislative Policies, and prepare talking points that you can use in speaking with your legislators. Check the OEA website for more information.

The OEA-R seat on the OEA-FCPE State Council is open for a two year term beginning January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. The State Council is responsible for FCPE fundraising, candidate screening and endorsement procedures, and approving contributions to candidates. Thank you to Hank Haynes who's term just ended.

Opening still exist for retired seats on many OEA-FCPE House District Committees. If you wish to be considered for appointment to a House District Committee in your area, please contact the NEOEA office with your request. You must be an OEA-R member and a current FCPE contributor living in or near the House District.

To contribute to OEA-FCPE with a credit card, go to the OEA website and click on "[Donate to FCPE](#)" along the left side under "Quick Links".

## Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

The 2015 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Orlando, FL on July 1 – July 6, with the NEA-Retired Annual Conference on June 28-30. OEA-Retired is entitled to eight (8) NEA RA delegates for the 2015 NEA RA. The OEA-Retired President serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office; therefore, retired members will vote for no more than seven (7) candidates.

For a Declaration of Candidacy form visit the NEOEA-R website <http://neoea-r.oea.us/files/2014/08/NEA-Retired-Delegate-Declaration-of-Candidacy-14.pdf>.

## OEA-R Delegate Caucus

The **OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus** met Friday, December 5, 2014 at the STRS Building prior to the OEA Representative Assembly.

Fifteen NEOEA-Retired members attended: Homer Adams, Lynn Aring, Bill Dorsey, Martha Franks, Hazel Haffner, Peg Ham, Hank Haynes, Warren Hershberger, Norm Hillstrom, Gary Hollow, Adele Matias, Donna Smoot-Walters, Pat Wagar, Nancy Wonson, and Dillas York. Delegates March Buckley, Nanci DiBianca, Debbie Bernauer, Gail Gentile, and Bonnie Harris were unable to attend.

Speakers included the OEA Officers: Becky Higgins, Scott DiMauro, and Tim Meyers; OEA Executive Director Sheryl Mathis; OEA-R Staff Liaison Bill Otten, and STRS Executive Director, Michael Neff..

The Caucus heard OEA-R Advisory Council Committee reports and voted to endorse Jeff Rhodes for the position of NEA Director #5. Thirty-one members of the Caucus contributed \$2512 to OEA-FCPE. The Caucus voted unanimously to direct the Advisory Council to prepare language for the next meeting of the Caucus to amend the OEA-R Guidelines to specify that the OEA-R Delegate Caucus is the supreme governing body of OEA-R.

## ORTA Links

Bring your OEA perspective to an ORTA meeting in your area.

- ORTA—<http://www.orta.org/>
- Greater Cleveland ORTA—<http://www.gccorta.com/>



### Read Across America

By Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

"Oh, the Places We Go" for our NEOEA-R connection to NEA's Read Across America. We have been very successful reading in school classrooms, libraries and at other events during the month of March to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Please join us in this worthwhile endeavor.

Books donated by NEOEA-R will be given to each reader to take to their location as a gift to the class or organization.

We want to double the number of readers visiting places for our children in NE. We want to make a statement that reading is fun, worthwhile and very important in their lives.

Now is the time to sign-up for the March 2015 reading adventures. We will begin to finalize our plans at our February 3, 2015 meeting. Make your own arrangements, then contact me at 330-659-3928 for any assistance or questions. You pick the day, time and place.

### NEOEA Megaconference

The **2015 NEOEA Megaconference** will be held March 14 at Corporate College East, 4400 Richmond Road, Warrensville Heights. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 AM, and workshops begin at 9:00 AM with lunch concluding around 1:00 PM. The \$15 registration fee (\$25 for nonmembers) covers a continental breakfast, lunch, and parking.

**Megaconference** features twelve simultaneous breakouts in three one-hour time slots. Topics are offered in three theme categories: Leadership Development, Professional Development, and Personal Development. Participants are free to choose workshops from different themes. Many sessions will be of interest to retirees.

For the complete information visit the NEOEA Mega page: <http://www.neoea.org/Mega/>. Graduate credit from Lake Erie College is also available for \$180 for one semester hour.

### OEA Pre-Retired Membership

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 NEOEA Megaconference for from 1:00 PM—2:30 PM.

OEA Attorney Referral Program attorney Richard Goulder will present information on wills and estate planning. Information from STRS and the NEA Value Builder program will also be provided. Please inform friends who may be approaching their retirement date.

### NEOEA Seeks Members for Retired Organizing Committee

by Bill Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

NEOEA's Retired Organizing Committee meets three times a year to consider developments affecting retired members. This is important work, and it's helpful if committee membership reflects NEOEA's membership. NEOEA policy requires that "representation will be from all areas of the NEOEA district when possible." This is the time when we consider applications for membership on the NEOEA-R Organizing Committee. We're especially interested in having representation from parts of northeastern Ohio where we presently don't have members.

NEOEA covers eleven counties of northeastern Ohio, an area approximately the size and population of Connecticut. Our Retired Organizing Committee has members representing seven of those counties. What we lack at present are any members who live or worked in Ashtabula, Erie, Mahoning, and Portage Counties.

That doesn't mean that NEOEA wouldn't accept applications from members living elsewhere--but the need is greater in the four counties I've listed. If you think you would enjoy this work, and especially if you live in Ashtabula, Erie, Mahoning, or Portage County, please consider applying for appointment to the committee. A Committee Volunteer Form is available online at <http://neoea.org/CommitteeVolunteerForm> and Charges.pdf

### NEOEA-Retired Committees

Please consider volunteering to serve on one of our Committees. Any OEA-R member from NEOEA may serve. Let us know on our "**NEOEA-R Sub-Committee**" page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/neoea-r-sub-committees/> or call the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200.

As an NEOEA Retiree, you have extensive knowledge and experience that can provide valuable help to the active members and public education in general. Please consider volunteering a bit of your time.

### Retirement System Reports

The Ohio Education Association provides a periodic report on the three systems and posts the reports at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates>.

### ESP — SERS Update

By Adele Matias, OEA-R ESP Representative

The OAESP 2015 Statewide Conference "Support Staff: Making Education Happen" will be held on March 27-28 at Mansfield Senior High School. See OEA website for more information. <http://www.ohea.org/oaesp-2015-statewide-conference>

Two retired school employees are candidates for the retired seat on the SERS Board. SERS retired members will receive ballots by mail in the February Focus newsletter.

A highlight of the SERS financial statements contained in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) reports SERS' annual net investment return of 17.3%

Visit the SERS site for complete information: <http://www.ohsers.org/>

Editor Note: Adele attends SERS meetings and writes up her observations in periodic reports. Adele's reports are at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>.



## NEA-Retired Organizing Conference

The NEA Retired Organizing Conference will be held at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel in Atlanta GA on March 24-25, 2015. The conference is devoted to training retired members to organize their communities to advance the cause of public education. The event will feature national speakers, skill development and knowledge building as well as opportunities to network with peers.

Visit <http://www.nea.org/grants/54535.htm> for information and online registration for the conference and hotel. The conference fee is \$90 and the hotel rate is \$149 per night.

## OEA-R Delegates Elected

In October 2014, OEA-R members elected 27 delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly from a field of 34 candidates. The 16 OEA-Retired Advisory Council members are automatic delegates by virtue of office, for a delegation of 45 delegates and 7 alternates by order of votes. Congratulations to the 22 Delegates and Alternates from NEOEA:

### OEA-R Advisory Council:

- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R — NEOEA Representative,
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R — ESP Representative,
- Bonnie Harris, YSU-ACE-R — Higher Ed Representative,

### Delegates (listed by votes received):

- William Dorsey, Painesville City TA-R
- Marsh Buckley, Mentor TA-R
- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
- Homer Adams, Parma EA-R
- Warren Hershberger, Barberton EA-R
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts AT-R
- Hazel Haffner, Willoughby-Eastlake-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview Hts EA-R
- Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R
- Gail Gentile, Akron TA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Norm Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R

### Alternates:

- Lynn Aring, Bay TA-R
- John Veverka, Bay TA-R
- Diallas York, Lorain EA-R

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring Representative Assemblies of OEA while delegates from NEOEA also attend both of the NEOEA RAs. Prior to each OEA RA there is a delegate briefing with the OEA officers and reports from the OEA-R Advisory Council.

## Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans

The Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) is a nationwide coalition of individuals, community, and union organizations educating and advocating for retirees on laws, policies, and institutions that shape the quality of life for American retirees. ARA is committed to advancing public policy that protects and promotes the health and economic security of America's retirees. ARA works to strengthen Medicare, Social Security, and pensions to improve the quality of life for current and future retirees. To learn more about the Alliance of Retired Americans visit: <http://retiredamericans.org/>

OEA-R is a Community Action Network (CAN) affiliate of the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans (Ohio ARA). OEA-R is entitled to 10 voting delegates to the Ohio ARA's fall and spring conventions.

Thanks to NEOEA-R members Homer Adams and Marti Franks who are OEA-R representatives to the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans.

## Update Your Contact Information

Have you moved and this newsletter stopped at your old address first?

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 Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts <http://www.neoea.org/MemberBenefits.aspx>.

- **OEA Attorney Referral Program:** login at the OEA Member Services page <https://www.ohea.org/legal-services>
- **Great Big Home and Garden Show** at the IX Center: Save \$5 per ticket! <http://www.neoea.org/GBHGS2015.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:** NEOEA's membership in Best Benefits Club (password: NEOEA0613e) permits members to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at <http://www.neoea.org/HoneybakedHamDiscounts.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>.
- **Long-term Care:** Ensure your independence by contacting LTC Financial Partners. You can also receive a free *Dignity for Life* book. <http://neoealongtermcare.com/>
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Playhouse Square:** Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://www.playhousesquare.org/ceo>
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>
- **Liberty Mutual:** <https://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>



North Eastern Ohio Education Association  
5422 E. 96th Street, Suite 200  
Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125-5330

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**NEOEA-R Organizing Committee:**

- Gary Hollow, Bristol-R, Chairperson
- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R, Vice Chair
- Adele Matias, Mayfield EA-R, Secretary
- Beryl Burkle, Bedford EA-R, NEOEA Liaison, & OEA-R Representative
- Hank Haynes, ACCESS-R, web/newsletter editor
- Deb Bakos, Cardinal EA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Patricia Black, East Cleveland EA-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-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
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Norman Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Richard Javorek, Brunswick EA-R
- Dale Kain, Mayfield EA-R
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Waggar, Mayfield EA-R
- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

Address Service Requested

**NEOEA Calendar**

- February 3** NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office, Garfield Hts.
- February 15** NEA-R Delegates Candidate Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- February 15** OEA-R Advisory Council Officers and Representatives Candidate Forms due to OEA Secretary-Treasurer
- March 2** NEA Read Across America OEA Read Across America Various locations throughout the month.
- March 14** NEOEA Megaconference, CCC Corporate College East
- March 24-26** NEA-Retired Organizing Conference, Downtown Sheraton, Atlanta, GA
- April 25** NEOEA Representative Assembly, R.B. Chamberlin MS, Twinsburg
- May 7** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS Building, Columbus

**May 8-9**

OEA Representative Assembly, Schottenstein Center, Columbus

**May 12**

OEA-R — NEOEA-R Spring Conference, NEOEA Office, Garfield Hts.

**May 12**

NEOEA-R Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office, Garfield Hts.

**Looking for More Information?**

**NEOEA on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/NEOEA>

**NEOEA Member Only Area:**

Go to the NEOEA website <http://www.neoea.org/>, click on the **Member's Page** link.

There you will find current and past issues of *NEOEA News & Views* and a link to the NEOEA Presidents' Page listing all downloadable NEOEA resources. Also available are the NEOEA Government Guide.

**New NEOEA Website Under Construction**

Watch the new website evolve! NEOEA is beginning the process of building a new website. The current home page has been changed. Links to back pages of the site will still work. Links to those pages are being added to the new home page. A completely new website built on a WordPress platform will be unveiled in the Spring.

Links in this newsletter should continue to work. If you have trouble, just call the office.

**NEOEA-R Raffle**

NEOEA-R needs volunteers to cover the raffle sales table for upcoming events. Contact Carol Dolgosh if you can give a few hours of your time. Leave a message at the NEOEA office or on the website.

- March 14 — NEOEA Megaconference
- April 25 — NEOEA Spring Representative Assembly