



NEOEAA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- retired@neoea.org
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Hank Haynes, Editor

NEOEAA Member Becky Higgins Elected OEA President!

NEOEAA Past President (2010-11) **Becky Higgins**, a Copley teacher, was elected President of the Ohio Education Association in an election held on Friday, May 10 at the OEA Representative Assembly. Her campaign theme was “**Innovative Leadership for Tomorrow’s OEA.**”

After her election, Becky remarked, “As I went around the state speaking at the various District RAs, it was meeting the members and talking about our issues that really brought home to me the reason why I ran. They, like me, know how important it is to continue to advocate for our members, public education and the students we work with each day. I look forward to working with all OEA members to see that our rights, our student’s rights, and public education are not undermined by those who wish to destroy what we hold dear and have fought so hard to preserve.”

Her campaign emphasized issues affecting OEA members. Her weekly articles about those issues are on her campaign website, <http://beckyhiggins4oeapresident.wordpress.com/>. Those on Facebook can check out her Facebook page, **Becky Higgins for OEA President**, and Twitter users can follow her Twitter feed, **@BeckyHigginsOEA**.

More at <http://www.neoea.org/NewsDetail.aspx?a=688>

Stay Up to Date with the OEA and NEOEA-R Websites

Visit the **OEA** website - <http://www.ohea.org/> and the **NEOEAA-R** website - <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/> every week for current information.

For links to up to date **OEA and Retirement System** reports visit the **Reports and Updates** page on the NEOEA-R website at: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/reports-updates/>.

For the latest **OEA Legislative Watch** reports, visit the OEA website and download the current report at: <http://www.ohea.org/document/get/27988>.

Sign-up for **OEA Text Message Alerts**
Text “**OEA**” to: **69866**

On the **OEA** website:

- **Sign up to Cyber-Lobby**, just click on POLITICAL ACTION / Advocates for Children and Education (ACE)
- **Donate to OEA-FCPE**, just click on Donate to FCPE

OEA Legislative Watch

For up to date information visit the OEA website Legislative Watch page at <http://www.ohea.org/legislative-watch-archive>.

Budget Bill (HB 59) Passes Senate and Now Heads to Conference Committee.

The Senate Finance Committee amended House Bill 59, the budget bill for FY 14 and FY 15. The bill passed the Senate Finance Committee with a party line vote of 9-4 and on June 6, 2013 passed the Ohio Senate after lengthy debate by a vote of 23-10. The Senate-passed version of the bill makes positive changes to certain education-related issues.

House Bill 167 (“Columbus Plan”) Passed by Ohio House; Senate Hearings Underway

House Bill 167, was recently introduced after months of deliberation by the Columbus Education Commission on how to best address the issue of improving education in the Columbus City Schools. The Columbus Education Association was represented on the Commission as various reform measures were considered. The Columbus Education Association supports the package contained in House Bill 167. As this legislation is the result of a local reform process, the OEA has been closely monitoring the bill as an “interested party” as it receives hearings in the Ohio General Assembly.

Hearing Held on So-Called “Right to Work” Legislation – House Bill 151 and House Joint Resolution 5

On June 4, 2013, the House Manufacturing and Workforce Development Committee held a hearing on House Bill 151 (R-Roegner) and House Joint Resolution 5 (R-Roegner/R-Maag), which are two of the three so-called “right-to-work” bills recently introduced in the House. House Bill 151 applies to private sector employees, and House Joint Resolution (HJR) 5 would put a so-called “right to work” law on the ballot to be amended into the Ohio Constitution. HJR 5 would apply to both private and public sector workers. The third right-to-work bill, House Bill 152 (R-Maag), would apply to public employees like OEA members, but has yet to be scheduled for a hearing in the House State and Local Government Committee.

The Ohio Education Association and the We Are Ohio coalition will continue to strongly oppose House Bill 151, House Bill 152 and HJR 5. These so-called “right to work” bills are the latest attack on Ohio’s working families. Just like Senate Bill 5, these bills would hurt the middle class, provide less freedom in the workplace and make us all less safe.

NEOEA Summer Leadership Goes All-Inclusive!

Whatever your summer plans, be sure to attend the all-inclusive **2013 NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference on July 24-25!** NEOEA's Summer Leadership Committee has worked tirelessly to make this the best conference ever, and we are excited that this year's event will be held at the beautiful **Bertram Inn and Conference Center in Aurora, Ohio**. This is great news because everything will happen under one roof at one reasonable cost.

Centrally located for NEOEA members with promising technological capabilities for all, educators from northeastern Ohio will gather in a relaxed atmosphere for training and networking with other local association leaders and members. On Wednesday evening, join us for 5:00 dinner and then hear the keynote address followed by an evening reception. Join us on Thursday for your choice from 22 classes -- everything for veterans to newbies.

Our "All Things Summer Leadership" page has all the details: <http://www.neoea.org/SLC>. Graduate credit is also available (register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/zcqvjp>). See you in July at The Bertram Inn and Conference Center! <http://www.thebertraminn.com/>

NEOEA-R wins Read Across America Video Contest.

The **NEOEA-Retired** video "**It Takes the NEOEA Community**" has been selected as the winner in the OEA's first Read Across America Video Contest. View the video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POILQYFKpxQ> or search "NEOEA" on YouTube.

The video was shown as part of the Read Across America presentation at the Spring 2013 OEA Representative Assembly. The NEOEA Retired Organizing Committee won a \$200 Barnes and Noble gift card to buy books for next year.

Thank you to all NEOEA members who participated in the NEOEA-R Read Across America Program in March 2013. If you would like to be involved next year contact Beryl Burkle on the NEOEA-R website or at the NEOEA office.

OEA-R Statewide Conferences

Save the Date and Register Now.

The **OEA-Retired Statewide Fall Conference** will be held **September 11, 2013 at the STRS Building**, 7th Floor, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus OH 43215. Free parking is provided at the STRS building.

Speakers include the OEA Officers, OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks, and OEA-R Staff Liaison Bill Otten. STRS and SERS Health Care Personnel will be invited to speak on health care issues/changes for 2014 followed by questions and answers. Other interesting and informational sessions including a So-Called-Right-to-Work update are being planned for the afternoon. Registration will begin at 9:30 am, Program at 10:00 am, Lunch at 12:15 pm, and ending by 3:00 pm.

Registration fee of \$15.00 must be received by September 1st in order to be eligible for door prizes. You will be notified by email once your payment is received. Mail: payment, name, address, email, and OEA-R District (NEOEA-R) and to: Ohio Education Association, Statewide Fall Conference, PO Box 2136, Columbus, OH 43216-2136, Atten: Bill Otten.

The **OEA-Retired Spring Conference** will be held **Thursday, May 15, 2014 at the Zanesville Holiday Inn Express**. The spring conference is sponsored this year by EOEAR, ECOEAR, & SEOEAR.

There will be a special presentation by Andy Tipple, Naturalist for the Muskingum River Locks System. The Program includes Lunch and visits to the National Road/Zane Gray Museum and the John & Annie Glenn Historic Site.

OEA-Retired Advisory Council Elections

A mail-in ballot election was counted April 8 for OEA-Retired Advisory Council positions:

OEA-Retired Advisory Council ESP Representative – three year term beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2016. Election results are as follows:

- **Adele M. Matias** ~ 1351 Votes ~ Elected
- **Clarice F. Thomas** ~ 538 Votes

OEA-Retired Advisory Council NEOEA Representative – three year term beginning September 1, 2013 and ending August 31, 2016. Election results are as follows:

- **Beryl M. Burkle** ~ 475 Votes ~ Elected
- **Peg Ham** ~ 227 Votes

Ohio NEA-Retired Delegate Elections

The 2013 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Atlanta, GA on July 1 – July 6.

OEA-Retired Delegates to 2013 NEA Representative Assembly (Elected delegates also participate in the NEA-Retired Pre-Conference). Election results are as follows:

The OEA-Retired are entitled to eight (8) NEA RA delegates. The OEA-Retired President serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office.

Elected Delegates:
Delegate by Virtue of Office ~ John Hoyes, President

1586 Votes	Donald L. Traxler
934 Votes	William A. Dorsey
728 Votes	Bill Sears
660 Votes	Carol A. Kinsey
552 Votes	Christina Wall Swank
540 Votes	Homer O. Adams
499 Votes	Marilyn Allen

Alternates:	
491 Votes	Deloris Rome Hudson
465 Votes	Phil A. Long
443 Votes	Nancy Wonson
388 Votes	Marsh Buckley
382 Votes	Joan Klein
358 Votes	Judy Ritchey Novak
356 Votes	Willie A. Terrell, Jr.
345 Votes	Beryl M. Burkle
331 Votes	Pat Wagar
328 Votes	Donna Smoot-Walters
327 Votes	Adele Matias
321 Votes	Jane A. Rahn
319 Votes	Peg Ham
318 Votes	Sandy Coe
318 Votes	Sue Christian
305 Votes	Clarice F. Thomas
291 Votes	Kathleen Purdy
252 Votes	Gail Gentile
245 Votes	Susie Crawford
187 Votes	Arnette G.P. Collins

CATEGORY 2
Robert L. Dengler – Elected by Acclamation

STRS Board Elections

Retired teacher members **Robert Stein** and **James McGreevy** were reelected to the State Teachers Retirement Board in the 2013 election. The term for these seats begins Sept. 1, 2013, and ends on Aug. 31, 2017. Both were OEA's endorsed candidates for the STRS Board. Thanks go to the many OEA-R members who supported them in the voting. Go to the STRS website (<https://www.strsoh.org/>) to sign up for email updates.

SERS Board Report

Thank you to NEOEA-R member Adele Matias who attends and reports on the SERS Board activities. Please visit the NEOEA-Retired website for the latest SERS Report: <http://neoea-r.ohioea.us/reports-updates/>.

School Employee Retirees of Ohio, Inc. Annual Meeting May 14, 2013

By Adele Matias, OEA-R ESP Representative

It was my pleasure to attend the annual meeting of SERO, the retire organization of SERS retirees, (<http://www.ohio-sero.com/>) in Worthington, Ohio. The agenda included reports on SERS health care from Anne Jewel, SERS legislative from Laurel Johnson, and current events at SERS from John Grumney. SERS Board member Beverly Woolridge attended. The meeting was also addressed by Bethany Rhodes, Exec. Director of the Ohio Retirement Study Council. The ORSC is suggesting changes to the SERS Board travel policy. A lengthy question and answer period was held. The members attending (approx. 90) demonstrated an interest and depth of knowledge concerning retirement issues.

OEA-R and ORTA What's the Difference?

by William S. Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

Many retired OEA teacher members are also members of the Ohio Retired Teachers Association (ORTA). Unlike OEA's structure, ORTA's emphasizes county chapters, which means that if you're interested in attending a

gathering of retired educators you might look into a retired chapter near you. Most chapters hold reasonably-priced luncheon workshops.

Chapters may have their own dues and keep their own mailing and membership lists, but most welcome nonmembers and guests at their luncheons.

If you're interested in finding a chapter meeting, the best way is to go to the statewide ORTA website, <http://www.orta.org>, and click on the link marked "ORTA Chapter Webpages." To see the information for your county chapter, click on the link.

Like nearly one-third of NEOEA's members, I live in Cuyahoga County; so I've made it a point to attend some recent meetings of ORTA's Greater Cleveland Chapter (online at <http://gccorta.com>). They meet at the Valley Inn, in the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center in Brecksville; they have 2013 meetings scheduled for September 11, October 9, and November 13. (They generally meet on the second Wednesday of the month, and their 2014 meeting dates aren't posted yet.)

No one should confuse ORTA with OEA-R! ORTA's Regular members include teachers and administrators retired under STRS with Associate membership is available for others. OEA R members must have been an OEA Member for one year and retired under any of the Ohio retirement systems. At ORTA meetings, you'll meet administrators and members of other professional organizations besides OEA. Their policy aims and their political endorsements aren't always the same as OEA's. Nonetheless, you may find their sessions to be interesting and informative. I've attended three GCC-ORTA meetings, and I enjoyed them all.

Senior Voice Provides Speakers to Senior Groups

Local unions and non-profits are teaming up to provide speakers to senior groups. and some of those speakers include NEOEA-R members.

The **Senior Voice Coalition** is the current effort by the **Cleveland AFL-CIO Retiree Council** (http://www.clevelandaflcio.org/retiree_council.asp) to build a coalition of union retirees and senior community groups. The coalition educates seniors and the general public on the issues of protecting

Social Security benefits, restoring Medicare viability, and understanding the pending healthcare reform legislation and its impact on older populations. The Retiree Council is an **Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans** affiliate (<http://www.retiredamericans.org/>).

One way in which Senior Voice educates seniors is by providing speakers to community groups. Marti Franks (Twinsburg EA-retired), Debbie Bernauer (Brecksville-Broadview EA-retired), and Bill Lavezzi (Aurora EA-retired) are among the Senior Voice representatives available to make presentations.

If you know of a group that is looking for a presentation on senior issues, the NEOEA office can pass that group's information along to Senior Voice. Please provide the name of the group, contact information for a group representative, and meeting locations and times. You can send the information to NEOEA Executive Assistant Linda Grunden at 216-518-0200 or desk@neoea.org. If you would like more information about Senior Voice, contact Wynne Antonio at wantonio@clevelandaflcio.org.

NEOEA Trips

Seats are still available on **20th CENTURY TOURS**: We still have several exciting travel opportunities for NEOEA members.

The **NEOEA Day tour to New York City on October 17-20** (<http://www.neoea.org/NYC2013.pdf>) includes: lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights lodging in New York City, a ticket for one Broadway Show ("Jersey Boys," "Motown The Musical," or "Newsies"), a guided city tour, ticket to the 911 Memorial Site at Ground Zero, and dinner on the way home in Pennsylvania. Dinner at Carmine's in NYC is optional.

Join us on the **Hatfield and McCoy Feud** tour on **October 18-20** (<http://www.neoea.org/HatfieldMcCoyFeud.pdf>). After arriving in "Feud Country" we'll have a "Stolen Pig Dinner" and then be entertained by the heads of the feuding clans themselves—Devil Asne Hatfield and Ole Ranel McCoy along with a little "Hillbilly and Mountain Music" to cap the night off right. The next two days we'll be touring the feud sites, the Delbarton Opry, and Heritage Farm. Then we will head back home with a smile on our faces and a whole passel of stories.



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NEOEA Discounts

Check the **NEOEA.org** website for complete information on these valuable discounts:

- **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 NEOEA0613.
- **Cleveland Indians** are offering discount tickets and you get to pick your seat location! <http://www.neoea.org/Indians2013.pdf> To order, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/d5ly878> with password "NEOEA." Any questions? Please contact John Bowers at 216/420-4493 or jbowers@indians.com.
- **Dollar Bank**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members.
- **Honeybaked Ham** (NEOEA's

membership in Best Benefits Club (password: NEOEA0613) permits members to buy Honeybaked Ham gift certificates and save 12%. You can check out the menu at www.honeybaked.com.)

- **Liberty Mutual**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members.
- **Mavis Winkle's Irish Pubs**: Every Friday is "Teacher Appreciation" at Mavis Winkle's, located in Twinsburg and Independence. Just show your school ID and get 20% off your entire food check.
- **Park Place** (discount airport parking).
- **PlayhouseSquare** (be sure to use the promotional code FAMTIX).
- **Vintage Ohio** is offering \$10 off tickets to one of America's Premier Wine and Food Festivals -- August 2-3, 2013 at the Lake Metroparks Farmpark at 8800 Euclid Chardon Road in Kirtland. Use the code "NEEA2013" when you order tickets before July 31 at <http://www.visitvintageohio.com/> (tickets are \$30 at the gate).

NEOEA Calendar

- June 28-30** NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- July 1-6** NEA Representative Assembly, Atlanta, GA
- July 24-25** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Bertram Inn, Aurora
- Aug 5-7** OEA Summer Academy, Hilton Downtown, Columbus
- Sept 11** OEA-Retired Fall Conference, STRS
- Sept 15** OEA-R Delegate to OEA RA Candidacy Forms due

