



# NEOE -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- [retired@neoea.org](mailto:retired@neoea.org)  
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Volume 14, Number 4

June, 2014

Hank Haynes, Editor

## Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

The 2014 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Denver CO on July 1 – July 6.

The OEA-R delegates to the 2014 NEA RA are (in order of votes): John Hoyes (by virtue of office), William A. Dorsey, Carol Kinsey, Donald L. Traxler, Bill Sears, Homer O. Adams, Marilyn Allen, and Marti Huss.

The OEA-R alternates to the 2014 NEA RA are (in order of votes): Christina Wall Swank, Nancy Wonson, Joan Klein, Beryl M. Burkle, Peg Ham, Phil A. Long, Jane A. Rahn, Donna Smoot-Walters, Willie A. Terrell, Jr., Kathleen Purdy, Judy Ritchey Novak, and Doris L. Moore.

## OEA Issues a Call To Action: Protect "Thorough And Efficient" Provision In Ohio Constitution

On May 9, the nearly 1,000 delegates to the OEA Representative Assembly voted unanimously to adopt the following New Business Item:

"The OEA, working through the delegates to the Spring 2014 Representative Assembly and its affiliates, shall encourage local boards of education to adopt resolutions in support of preserving the 'thorough and efficient' provision of Article VI, Section 2 of the Ohio Constitution and advocating for constitutional language that strengthens the fundamental right to high quality educational opportunities for every Ohio student."

As background, the Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, a body of 32 legislators and appointed members of the general public, is in the process of reviewing the state constitution and bringing recommendations for changes to the General Assembly and voters. Chad Readler, Chairperson of the subcommittee tasked with issues related to public education, has recommended language that deletes the "thorough and efficient" standard from the Ohio Constitution, arguing that the courts should not be involved in what he believes is a legislative responsibility.

The Ohio Supreme Court used the "thorough and efficient" standard as the basis for its ruling in the DeRolph vs. Ohio decisions that declared Ohio's system of school funding unconstitutional four times. Without this language, there would be no means for checks and balances to ensure that the General Assembly is meeting its obligations to provide for an equitable and adequate system of public schools for all of Ohio's students.

One of the attorneys in the DeRolph case has stated that without the "thorough and efficient" provision in the state constitution, "the right

to any level of public education for children in Ohio would disappear. Public education would exist, if at all, at the whim of the legislature."

To follow up on the action of the Representative Assembly, we are asking you to please contact members of your local board of education and encourage them to adopt the resolution — <https://www.ohea.org/Document/Get/29673>. We hope to see every local board of education in the State of Ohio adopt the resolution by the end of this school year.

In addition to promoting the adoption of this board resolution, the OEA asks that you share the results of your efforts. Please email Government Relations staff at [govtsrv@ohea.org](mailto:govtsrv@ohea.org) to let us know when your local board of education has taken action on this recommendation.

A detailed background and history of DeRolph v. State of Ohio that includes a chronology and all briefs and decisions is available online at <http://bit.ly/derolph>.

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".

## Read Across America Report March 3-14, 2014

By Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

Remember "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to open a book and read with a child." Dr. Seuss, AKA Theodor Geisel. We honored Dr. Seuss and had a very successful Read Across America Program in NEOEA-R in March 2014.

You can meet some of our star readers on YouTube at "read across neoea". We had retired and caring adults that joined us in reading to students across NEOEA. We distributed 55 new books in "The Beginning Book Reading Series" with "The Cat in the Hat" logo on the cover. Readers shared their time and joy of reading with children.

This was a large group of readers to keep track of. A three minute video is a short time to showcase them all but here is a list of readers: Debbie Bernauer, Beryl Burkle, Karen Sullins, Trish Dudash, Sheila Ciborek, David Ciborek, Marti Franks, Dale Franks, Bill Lavezzi, Dr. Roger Goudy, Norm Hillstrom, Jan Warren, Mike Warren, Janet Burkey, Patricia Black, Rhonda Braylock, Karen Davis, Pat-Frost Brooks, Joyce Cyrus, Tonya Allen, Karen Clayton-Bothwell, Beatrice Price, Ralph Moore, Pat Sharkey, Tom Moscovic, Pat Wagar, Elaine Gidysz, Judy Coleman, Marcia Cornelius, Betty Gold, and the video maker Gary Hollow.

There were many active teachers that invited us into their classrooms to read. We thank all who made this a great experience for children. If

your name was not on this list I apologize. Let me know who you are.

Next year we are planning for more readers and invitations from active teachers. Join the fun. Volunteer to join us in March 2015. This is an activity we can all participate in. Check the NEOEA-R website for additional information on planning a reading event.

A special thanks goes to Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R, who provided two large boxes of books from the Lander Circle Kiwanis Rummage Sale. The next sale is July 17-19 and July 24-26. Contact Orange City Schools for times.

### 2014 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference Report

By Nancy Wonson, Vice-Chairperson

NEOEA-R held its fifth **Spring Retired Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on April 30, 2014. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio were invited. Thanks to those who attended the NEOEA Spring Conference.

- Tamla Cole, STRS Member Education Coordinator, addressed recent changes to STRS and the health care plans. Pictured is Lynn Curry-Houston discussing the changes with Tamla.
- The NEA Member Benefits session was a favorite with attendees getting current information on the "deals" available to members.
- Heather Tippet, Cleveland Metro Parks, described the 100's of intriguing opportunities available for volunteering.
- Scott DiMauro, OEA Vice President, provided detailed reports on current Legislative developments in Columbus.

Mark your calendars for next year's conference on, Tuesday, May 12, 2015.



### NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee Report

By Gary Hollow, Chairperson

The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee meets three times per year, one being the NEOEA-R Spring Conference. The Committee promotes the welfare of retired members of NEOEA by:

- identifying particular concerns of retired members as topics for training workshops and social opportunities,
- by serving as a link between northeastern Ohio retired members and those in other districts, and
- by fostering communication within OEA-Retired.

Our goal is to provide you a resource to locate people and resources to assist you and keep you informed. Please consider volunteering to serve on one of our Sub-Committees.

Here is a summary of the past year:

- Kept up to date with reports on the STRS and SERS Board meetings.
- Political action focus is to reach out to OEA-R for support of endorsed candidates. The OEA screening committees have spots for one OEA-R on each county committee.
- Membership Committee increased raffle amount to \$100. Membership Committee now will have tables at Megaconference, the Representative Assembly, and Summer Leadership. The plan for Megaconference on March 14, 2014, is two gas cards of \$25 each.
- Conference committee reported on the evaluations of the 2014 Spring Conference. Conference committee reported on NEOEA-R sessions at Megaconference this year.
- NEOEA-R won the OEA Read Across America 2013 contest and the \$200 gift card was spent on 37 books from Kohl's for \$197.49. Donations provided for 18 more books. The books will go to classrooms or libraries where an OEA-R member reads for RAA.
- OEA-R membership incentive program was an on-going project this year.
- Promoted the OEA-R Spring Conference in Zanesville.
- OEA-R Advisory Committee also received a mentorship grant that is run by Beryl Burkle and Nanci DiBianca for NEOEA-R.

- Rich Javorek is candidate for HD 69.
- Bill Lavezzi reported on the importance of state school board races in Ohio.
- NEOEA-R proposed and the OEA Board of Directors approved making elections for OEA-R Advisory Council officers open to any member. Still under consideration is an NEOEA-R proposal for proportional District representation on the OEA-R Advisory Council.

### NEOEA Day 2014 Welcomes Retired Members

By William S. Lavezzi, NEOEA Executive Director

It's hard to believe, but NEOEA Day 2014 is just four months away!

Although NEOEA Day has traditionally focused on the instructional needs of active members, recent changes have made it even more appropriate than ever for retired members.

Many active educators work in locals where NEOEA Day is an unpaid holiday. This means that employees are encouraged but not required to participate, and NEOEA Day competes with all the other things people could do with their time on that day. As a result, NEOEA offers more general-interest sessions side by side with the traditional emphasis on instructional improvement.

Retired members may enjoy participating in some of our more personally-oriented sessions, including the following.

The Western Reserve School of Cooking will present a session on "Kids in the Kitchen" (adults required).

A number of important northeastern Ohio sites that are destinations in their own right have proposed sessions, including the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Holden Arboretum, the Akron Zoo, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Hale Farm and Village, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, and the Underground Railroad Trolley and Museum.

WVIZ/PBS *ideastream* will offer a tour of Amish country, and retired Parma teacher Nancy Szabo will provide a tour to the Longaberger factory in Dresden, Ohio.

Dave Baker and 20th Century Tours will be offering two trips this year:

- **New York City:** The NEOEA Day tour to New York City includes: lodging for one night in Pennsylvania, two nights lodging in New York City, a ticket for one Broadway Show ("Rocky," "Aladdin," or "Kinky Boots"), 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. More details at [www.neoea.org/NYC2014.pdf](http://www.neoea.org/NYC2014.pdf).
- **Niagara Wine Country:** After arriving in Niagara Falls, you'll have some free time to view the falls, shop, or try the casino. The next day we'll begin our wine tasting tour at three wineries. On our way home, you'll be able to try the White Water Walk along the Great Gorge Rapids, enjoy some of the attractions, shop or try your hand one last time at the casino. More details at [www.neoea.org/NiagaraWineryTour2014.pdf](http://www.neoea.org/NiagaraWineryTour2014.pdf).

So save October 17th on your calendar for a day with your NEOEA friends! By mid-August we'll have information on this year's NEOEA Day posted at <http://neoea.org/ND2014.pdf>.

### OEA-R Membership Drive Report

By Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

The Ohio Education Association-Retired wrote a grant to the National Education Association for the Ohio Enhanced Action Recruitment Plan. NEA funded incentives to join OEA-R/NEA-R as a unified Life Member.

Efforts were focused on signing up more active members as Pre-Retired members. Additional attention was given to encouraging those who pay annual retired dues (\$45 a year) and those receiving the free first-year OEA-R membership.

Phone calls went out and we were able to meet our goals for the grant. Many commented that it was a great experience to know OEA-R/NEA-R is their connection for a lifetime to their profession. "Retire from your job, not your profession."



Life Membership in OEA-R/NEA-R is a one-time payment (\$350) for life. You receive up-to-date information (Newsletters and NEA-R Magazines) and can easily save on insurances and discounts.

Encourage colleagues and friends to apply for Life Membership. Join online with a Visa or MasterCard credit card. [WWW.nea.org/JoinNea](http://WWW.nea.org/JoinNea).

### 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 **NEOEA0613e** or call 330-273-5756. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>
- **Cleveland Indians** are offering discounted tickets with your choice of seat location. Use the password "NEOEA." Go Tribe! <http://tinyurl.com/NEOEA-Indians14>.
- **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.honeybaked.com/>.
- **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://www.neoea.org/2014GBHGS.pdf>
- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>

- **Playhouse Square:** Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://ev15.event.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=psq&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR&promoType=corp>
- **Vintage Ohio:** Join us August 1-2 at Kirtland Lake Metroparks and save \$10 off the gate ticket price. <http://www.neoea.org/VintageOhio.pdf>
- **Yankee Peddler:** Save \$2.50 for adult tickets and \$.50 for children's tickets for the annual Yankee Peddler Festival held the first three weekends in September. use the coupon code "14NEEA2", then update the cart. [www.yptickets.com](http://www.yptickets.com)
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>

### Canadian Cities Bus Tour

Dave Baker and 20th Century Tours are taking us to the Canadian cities of Montreal, Quebec, Tadoussac, and Ottawa on July 28-August 3. Details at [www.neoea.org/CanadianCities2014.pdf](http://www.neoea.org/CanadianCities2014.pdf).

### Retirement System Reports

NEOEA members belong to three different public retirement systems: the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), the School Employees Retirement System (SERS), and the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). During their careers, some members may work within more than one of those systems, and of course many married couples may belong to different systems.

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

The OEA-R Advisory Council ESP Representative is Adele Matias (Mayfield EA-R). She attends SERS meetings and writes up her observations in periodic reports. We post Adele's reports at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>.



**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  
Homer Adams, Parma EA-R  
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

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**NEOEA Calendar**

- June 7** Ohio NEA Delegate Briefing, Columbus, OH
- June 28-30** NEA-Retired Annual Meeting, Denver CO
- July 1-6** NEA Representative Assembly, Denver CO
- July 23-24** NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference, Bertram Inn, Aurora, OH
- August 4-8** OEA Summer Leadership Academy, Hilton Columbus Downtown
- September 10** OEA-Retired Fall Conference STRS 7th floor, Columbus, OH
- October 17** NEOEA Day Programs and Niagara Wine Country & NY City Tours

**So Called "Right to Work" is Wrong**  
<http://www.ohea.org/right-to-work>

**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-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.

- July 23-24 — NEOEA Summer Leadership
- November 8 — NEOEA Fall Representative Assembly
- March 14 — NEOEA Megaconference
- April 25 — NEOEA Spring Representative Assembly

**Member Only Comment Page**

The NEOEA-Retired website now offers NEOEA Retirees their own comment page at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/member-only-area/>.

NEOEA Retirees who are also OEA-R/NEA-R members can now request login credentials to post comments and receive notification when others reply. Everyone has an opinion; get it out there and see what other members have to say.

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