



NEOEAA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- 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

Ohio NEA-R Delegate Election

The 2014 NEA Representative Assembly will be held in Denver, CO 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 2014 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 from a field of twenty-three candidates.

Below are the names of candidates from NEOEA who will be on the ballot. Ballots/bios are being printed and mailed out no later than February 28. Please support NEOEA candidates. Vote and return your ballot promptly.

- Homer O. Adams, Parma EA-R
- Beryl M. Burkle, Bedford EA-R
- William A. Dorsey, Painesville City TA-R
- Marti Franks, Twinsburg EA-R
- Peg Ham, Lorain EA-R
- Norman W. Hillstrom, Mentor TA-R
- Donna Smoot Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Nancy Wonson, Lakewood TA-R

OEA Announces Statewide Endorsements

The OEA FCPE State Council, comprised of elected OEA members from throughout the state, carefully screens candidates based on their voting records, their stated support of public education and the OEA's priority issues.

COLUMBUS — November 4, 2013 — The Ohio Education Association (OEA) Fund for Children and Public Education (FCPE) State Council announced its unanimous endorsement of **Ed FitzGerald for Governor**. The vote was taken at an FCPE convention on Saturday in Columbus.

“Ed FitzGerald has demonstrated a thorough and impressive command of the issues and challenges that face Ohio’s public schools and their students,” said OEA President Becky Higgins. “If elected, we believe he has the vision and the leadership needed to make our public schools, our system of higher education and our programs for the developmentally disabled in Ohio that much better.”

“Educators, students, parents and the communities in which they live will be well-served by the election of Ed FitzGerald,” said Higgins. “As Governor, he would take the state in a new and more promising direction – away from the current trend to privatize public education – and toward more equitable and sustained state support of local public education.”

COLUMBUS — February 3, 2014 — The Ohio Education Association (OEA) Fund for Children and Public Education (OEA-FCPE) announced its second round of endorsements for the November 2014 statewide elections. The OEA-FCPE has endorsed the following:

- **Connie Pillich** for Ohio Treasurer
- **Nina Turner** for Secretary of State
- **John Patrick Carney** for State Auditor
- **David Pepper** for Attorney General

“Ohioans will be well-served by these recommended candidates. They all have strong records of support for our public schools - from K-12 through higher education,” said OEA President Becky Higgins. “These candidates have a vision to ensure a better future for Ohio’s children and a firm commitment to public education.”

OEA-FCPE House District Screening Committees

If you wish to be considered for appointment to an OEA-FCPE House District Committee in your area, please contact the NEOEA office with your request. You must be an OEA-R member and an 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”.

ACE Action Alert – OEA Lobby Day March 19, 2014

Advocates for Children and Education:

The Ohio General Assembly is currently debating many critical issues that impact OEA members and Ohio’s public schools. These issues include efforts to improve Ohio’s system for evaluating teachers (SB 229), and making sure our voices are heard in the development and implementation of a protocol for the designation of school employees who may carry concealed weapons (HB 8).

Make sure your voice is heard! Member Lobby Day provides an opportunity to meet with state legislators to discuss key issues that impact you directly.

You can ensure that your voice is heard by visiting at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/oea-member-lobby-day-march-19-2014-tickets-10379949709> to register to participate in OEA’s next Member Lobby Day on Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Join your colleagues at the OEA Headquarters’ Media Center, located at 225 E. Broad Street in Columbus, Ohio at 9:00 a.m. for an hour-long briefing, then visit with your legislator. Keep in mind that you need to contact your legislator to schedule a meeting prior to attending lobby day. Find contact info for your legislator by visiting <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/>

To find out more about how you can become active in OEA's legislative programs, please go to <http://www.ohea.org/politicalaction>. If you have questions in regard to Member Lobby Day, please email Julie Parsley at parsleyj@ohea.org, or call OEA Government Relations at 1-800-282-1500.

Reserve a free seat on the NEOEA bus. Register by email, mail, or fax with form at <http://www.neoea.org/LobbyDay.pdf>.

- Bus leaves NEOEA office, 5422 East 96th St, Garfield Heights at 6:30 am and returns 4:00 pm.
- Bus Leaves Burbank Lodi Station Outlets, 9911 Avon Lake Road (I-71 exit 204 at Route 83) at 7:00 am and returns 3:00 pm.

OEA Statewide FCPE Drive

OEA is launching an intensive Statewide FCPE Fundraising Drive for mid-March through mid-April. Look for communication from OEA about the importance of contributing and links to giving with a credit card online at the OEA website.

Stand Up for Public Education by making a donation to FCPE today! Practically every aspect of an educator's school day is decided by elected officials--the tests students take, the resources available, and even the pay and benefits.

We've seen the results when people who don't have the best interests of educators and the interests of students at heart are making the decisions--attacks like Senate Bill 5 and huge cuts in funding for our schools.

FCPE supports pro-public education candidates, regardless of party. We contribute to those who understand the issues and support actions that will improve our schools and help our students.

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".

2014 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

Mark your calendars. NEOEA-R will hold its fifth **Spring Retired Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on April 30, 2014. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited. Download a Registration Form at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2014/02/NEOEA-R-2014-Spring-Conference.pdf>.

Schedule:

- 9:30 - Registration & Continental Breakfast;
- 10:00 - Introductions & Welcome;
- Breakout session choices:
 - (A). STRS Health Care Update,
 - (B). NEA Member Benefits Update,
 - (C). OEA Legislative Update,
 - (D). Volunteering in the Parks .
- 10:30 - First Breakout Session;
- 11:35 - Second Breakout Session;
- 12:30 - Lunch and Door Prizes

Read Across America March 3-14, 2014

By Beryl Burkle

Join the NEOEA-R Outreach Committee in making plans for our adventures reading to children for the NEA Read Across America Program. Come and join the fun! We are planning to read during March 3-14. We will read in schools, libraries and events planned by us as a group. That is what has given us the title "Oh, the Places We Go".

Retirees are invited to volunteer to read at schools and libraries near them. You make the arrangements to read and let us know where you are going OR we have active teachers who would like to have you come to their classrooms and read.

For more information go to: <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/read-across-america/>. This page includes links to the OEA and NEA Read Across America pages, each with valuable information about planning a reading event.

Remember, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read with a child," Dr. Seuss, AKA Theodor Geisel. Check the websites or contact Beryl Burkle at 330-659-3928. Join us in this fun! This is an activity we can all participate in!

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 work within more than one of those systems, and of course many married couples belong to different systems.

Because we have members in all three systems, the Ohio Education Association provides a periodic report on the three systems. Those reports are posted online at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates>.

The OEA-R Advisory Council's 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 online at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/sers-reports/>.

Both of these reports are written for the information of OEA members across the state, but we're pleased to make them more easily available to NEOEA-retired members.

NEOEA Outreach to Community Organizations

NEOEA is beginning a process aimed at developing a speaker resource for community organizations in northeastern Ohio. With over 31,000 members knowledgeable on many topics, we know we have experts on education-related topics.

If you belong to an organization which has a presence in your community, let us know about it. Just fill out a Community Organization Profile form or each organization at <http://neoea.org/OrganizationProfile.pdf>.

It's important to educate our communities about the good things going on in our workplaces and to correct some of the misinformation that's out there. With your help, we can get started.



NEA ESP Conference

The 2014 NEA Education Support Professionals (ESP) Conference will be held March 7-9, 2014, at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis hotel in San Francisco, CA. Visit the NEA ESP Conference page at <http://www.nea.org/grants/31430.htm> for complete schedule and information.

NEA-Retired Organizing Conference

The NEA Retired Organizing Conference will be held at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston Texas on March 25-27, 2014. The theme of this year's conference is "Raise Your Hand: Commit, Recruit Retired, Act" and 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/home/1598.htm> for information and online registration for the conference and hotel. The conference fee is \$85 and the hotel rate is \$155 per night.

OEA-Retired Spring Conference

Save the date: Thursday, May 15, 2014. There will be a presentation by Andy Tipple, Naturalist, the Muskingum River Locks System, at the Zanesville Holiday Inn Express (rooms available on your own).

Also Lunch and visits to the National Road/ Zane Gray Museum and the John & Annie Glenn Historic Site. Sponsored by EOE-R, ECOEA-R & SEOEA-R.

Registration form and \$20.14 by April 1. Flyer at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2012/03/OEA-R-Spring-2014-Conference.pdf> and registration form at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2012/03/Regis2014V5.pdf>.

SIGN UP FOR OEA TEXT MESSAGE ALERTS
TEXT "OEA" TO 69866
OR SIGN UP HERE

NEOEA Day

Next year's NEOEA Day is Friday, October 17, 2014. As always, NEOEA seeks providers of quality programs for the upcoming NEOEA Day. The process of planning NEOEA Day begins in the spring, as NEOEA staff sends Requests for Proposals (RFP) to an extensive mailing list.

Members who know of a potential NEOEA Day program provider who is not receiving the RFP packet should encourage the provider to contact the NEOEA office at 800/354-6794 to receive an RFP and be placed on the distribution list.

All Good Things Must End

For the past several years OEA-R has been able to offer incentives for purchasing an OEA -R/NEA-R unified lifetime membership. All incentives were made possible through a grant from NEA-R. This is the last year of our grant.

So here is our: **Last Best Offer**

If you join and/or complete your unified membership before the end of the Friday, May 9, 2014, session of the OEA Spring Representative Assembly you will receive a pen, flash drive and a \$25 gas card while supplies last! In addition, your name will be entered in a drawing for FREE DUES (\$350) to be held on May 10, 2014, at the OEA Spring RA. We will draw one name for every 10 new memberships or major fraction thereof. You do not have to be present to win!

Download Membership Flyer for complete instructions. <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2012/03/Membership-flyer-1.23.14.pdf>

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 Cavaliers** are offering discount tickets to the Houston Rockets game on Saturday, March 22. Save over \$35! <http://www.neoea.org/Cavaliers.pdf>
- **Direct Energy** is offering a fixed natural gas supply rate in the Dominion East Ohio Gas territory. Enjoy the peace-of-mind knowing you have a fixed natural gas supply rate through the winter months. <http://www.neoea.org/DirectEnergy.pdf>
- **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>.
- **IX Center Indoor Amusement Park Discounts:** Come join us March 21-April 20 for the I-X Indoor Amusement Park! Purchase regular \$21.99 tickets for \$18.99 using the coupon. Have a group of 15 or more? You can save \$5 per ticket. For additional information call the IX Center at 800-897-3942 or log on to <http://www.ixamusementpark.com/>
- **Piston Powered AutoRama:** March 14-16 a taste of summer begins as the I-X Piston Powered AutoRama opens its door for a weekend of Custom Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles and more – all inside at the I-X Center. Use the coupon <http://www.neoea.org/IndoorAmusementPark2014.pdf> to save \$2 per ticket; \$4 for a group or <http://www.neoea.org/AutoRama2014.pdf>
- **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>
- **Liberty Mutual:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>
- **Dollar Bank:** Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>

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
- Denise Bartholomew, Howland Classroom TA-R
- Debbie Bernauer, Brecksville-Broadview EA-R
- Patricia Black, East Cleveland EA-R
- Debbie Christman, Warren EA-R
- Lyn Curry-Huston, Cuyahoga Falls EA-R
- Robert Dengler, Akron EA-R
- Nanci DiBianca, Cuyahoga Hts. TA-R
- Carol Dolgosh, Lakewood TA-R
- Martha Dunford, Perry EA-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
- Mary Keefe, Maple Hts. TA-R
- Dennis Lewis, Parma EA-R
- Patricia Sharkey, North Ridgeville EA-R
- Donna Smoot-Walters, Barberton EA-R
- Pat Wagar, Mayfield EA-R
- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

Address Service Requested

- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Playhouse Square:** Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://ev15.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=psq&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR&promoType=corp>

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.



NEOEA Calendar

- March 3** NEA Read Across America, various locations.
- March 10** NEOEA Legislative Dinner, TBD
- March 25-27** NEA-Retired Organizing Conference, Houston TX
- April 5** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Shaw HS
- April 12** NEOEA Environmental Concerns Green Tour, Brewery Bus
- April 30** NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference, NEOEA Office
- April 30** NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee, NEOEA Office
- May 8** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS
- May 9-10** OEA Representative Assembly, Veterans Memorial, Columbus
- May 15** OEA-Retired Spring Conference, Zanesville
- May 17** Holiday Inn Express
- May 17** NEOEA All-Committee Conference, NEOEA Office
- June 7** Ohio NEA Delegate Briefing, Columbus, OH

Stay Up to Date with OEA and NEOEA Websites

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

Need links to the current **NEOEA Discounts**? Miss your **NEOEA News & Views**? Register on the NEOEA website at <http://www.neoea.org/> for *News & Views* and for links to valuable information & discounts.

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.

So Called "Right to Work" is Wrong

<http://www.ohea.org/right-to-work>