



NEOE -- Retired

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

OEA-Retired Officer Election

Ballots for election of OEA-R Officers will be in your OEA-R Election packet this month. This is an especially important election as the new OEA-R officers will set the direction of OEA-R for the near future.

NEOE-Retired members are running for each officer position. Their campaign statements are included below. Full résumés are included in the ballot packet.

Now for the first time, the election of OEA-R Officers is open to any OEA-R member. Previously only those who had served on the OEA-R Advisory Council were eligible to run. Thank you to the OEA Board of Directors for correcting this long standing inequity last spring.

Action by the OEA-R Delegate Caucus in December has begun a process to amend the OEA-R Guidelines to affirm that the forty-five member OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus rather than the eighteen member OEA-R Advisory Council is the supreme governing body of the OEA-R. The OEA-R Officer candidates from NEOEA-R are committed this change and building a strong and responsive OEA-R.

Dale Kain, candidate for OEA-R Chair

My experience on the NEA, OEA, and District Boards of Directors and as a Local and District President has helped me develop the skills necessary to help advance the goals and priorities of these organizations and the members they serve. As a leader with a reputation for being approachable, an active listener, and a problem solver, I have gained respect from members, other union leaders, and representatives of our legislature at the local, state and national levels. I look forward to using the knowledge and leadership skills I have gained to serve the retired members of OEA-R.

Marsh Buckley, candidate for OEA-R Vice Chair

The reason I am running for Vice Chair of OEA-R is simple and complex. It is simple because several delegates from across the state asked me to run. The complex reason is my desire for excellence. OEA-R is a very good organization, but we can be better. But we need leaders who are versed in both philosophy and action if we want to raise the bar of excellence. My experience on NEA, OEA, and District Resolutions Committees connects me to our organizations core beliefs. My experience on the NEA, OEA and District Boards of Directors has given me experience putting philosophy into action. Your vote will allow me to help transform our organization to the next level.

Peg (Margaret) Ham, candidate for OEA-R Secretary

I am running for the office of OEA-Retired Secretary to be a part of new, experienced, and competent leadership for OEA-Retired. I believe it is important to communicate and understand the needs of members. I will keep members informed of issues pertaining to retirees and be a resource person accountable to members. My active involvement and participation on NEA, OEA, District, and local

committees and attendance at many conferences has helped me to develop the skills needed: professional and respectful interaction with peers, willingness to support others positions, as well as communication and organizational skills.

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 Chairperson serves as an automatic NEA RA delegate by virtue of office; therefore, retired members will vote for no more than seven (7) candidates.

OEA-R ballots are being sent out. Look for yours in the mail and promptly mark and return it. Please do not invalidate your ballot by voting for more than seven (7) candidates.

Eleven members from NEOEA-R are running. Please support our NEOEA-Retired members: **Homer O. Adams, Marsh Buckley, Beryl M. Burkle, William A. Dorsey, Marti Franks, Gail M. Gentile, Peg Ham, Pat Wagar, Donna Smoot Walters, Nancy Wonson, and Diallys York.**

Although only seven delegates will be elected, alternates will be decided by the order of votes received.

2015 OEA-R—NEOE-Retired Spring Conference

Mark your calendars. NEOEA-R will hold its sixth **Spring Retired Conference** at the NEOEA Conference Center on May 12, 2015. The conference will also serve as the OEA-R Spring Conference so OEA-R members and leaders from across the state have been invited. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are encouraged to attend. Bring a friend! Download a NEOEA-R 2015 Spring Conference flyer/registration form at <http://neoea-r.ohea.us/files/2014/02/RetiredSpringConf2015.pdf>

Schedule:

9:30 - Registration & Continental Breakfast;

10:00 - Introductions & Welcome;

10:30 - First Breakout Session;

- 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 (US & worldwide), Roland Winzer, European Adventures.

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 and see Ohio's only working lock in action. <http://www.nps.gov/cuva/historyculture/canal-exploration-center.htm>

OEA Lobby Days

Big education issues – such as reducing the amount of student testing and reforming a broken charter school system – are now front and center on the legislative agenda. OEA needs your help in moving these issues forward.

OEA Lobby days are an opportunity for members to meet with their legislators and express their concerns. Lobby days are scheduled throughout the legislative budget process. The first is on **Wednesday, March 18th** and will focus on charter school reform. Other dates are: **Tuesday, April 14, 2015, Wednesday, May 13, 2015, and Wednesday, June 10, 2015** (tentative).

For the OEA Statement on Governor Kasich's Proposed K-12 Funding Formula go to the OEA website Legislation & Issues page: <http://www.ohea.org/legislation-and-issues>.

Please be sure to schedule a meeting with your legislators prior to attending lobby day. Members may also contact their legislators directly while they are home in their district.

Contact information for members of the House and Senate can be found by going to: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/>. If you need help scheduling or want to team up with other members please contact the NEOEA Legislative Committee at legislative@neoea.org or contact the NEOEA office.

RSVP with Julie Parsley at parsleyj@ohea.org. A briefing with the OEA lobbyists will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the Media Center at OEA Headquarters (225 East Broad Street, Columbus, 43215). Parking is available at nearby surface lots, in the parking garage just south of the OEA building or at parking meters located on 5th & Broad Streets.

Read Across America

By Beryl Burkle, OEA-R Advisory Council

NEOEA-R will be celebrating **NEA Read Across America during the month of MARCH**. Federal and state testing mandates and school schedules have shifted our reading activities from one week to all month.

We are off to a good start with readers working their own schedules or readers volunteering for places near their homes to read. Active teachers have found this to be an exciting program to bring to their schools.

The Board of Directors of NEOEA has provided a generous grant to buy new books to leave where we read. We thank them very much for giving our program such wonderful support.

Gary Hollow has agreed to put together a new YouTube video this year. If you would like to be included, please let me know your schedule and location. If you have your own photos send them to Linda Grunden desk@neoea.org at the NEOEA office before March 25th.

The YouTube videos:

- 2014— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8Qvylx0ln8>
- 2013— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKhSFfffHjQ>

Join our worthwhile reading endeavor for children become a READER. It is not to late to join us for this adventure. Reach me at berylburkle@gmail.com or 330-659-3928. You pick the day, the time and the place. I want to help you have a wonderful RAA experience. Let students know the joy of reading is a lifelong skill and it is fun.

Summit County Retired Luncheons

The first round of **NEOEA-Retired County Luncheons** will occur this month in Summit County. The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee is planning luncheons in each county to provide an opportunity for retirees to enjoy lunch with colleagues in their area and easily share important information. NEOEA-R leaders will host and provide valuable member information from NEOEA and OEA. Lunch is on your own and the fun and information is free.

Please select the date and location that best fits your schedule. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Please call or email the contact person listed for your luncheon at least three days before the luncheon.

Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 PM - Brewsters Café - Bistro – Pub, 2681 Creekside Dr, Twinsburg, OH 44087 - 330-405-7222 - <http://brewsterstwinsburg.com/>
Contact: Marti Franks, (Twinsburg EA-R) - MartiFalk@aol.com or 330-233-2597

Thursday, March 19, 1:00 PM - Panera Bread, 689 Howe Ave, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221 - 330-928-0112 - https://www.panerabread.com/en-us/mypanera/find-a-panera.html#cuyahoga%20falls_10
Contact: Donna Smoot-Walters (Barberton EA-R) - 44dmmss@outlook.com or 330-687-3257

OEA Pre-Retired Workshop

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 at Corporate College East, 4400 Richmond Road, Warrensville Heights from 1:00 PM—2:30 PM. There is no charge for this workshop so interested participants can just drop in.

STRS Representative Tamla Cole will provide



an update. NEA Member Benefit Specialist Guy Kendall-Freas will explain the NEA Value Builder program. Attorney Richard Goulder will present information on wills and estate planning. Mr Goulder serves Cuyahoga County in the OEA Attorney Referral Program.

It will be informative and interactively designed with questions and answers. All guests and members are welcome. Please invite any friends who are still working and approaching their retirement date.

PARCC - What is It?

Submitted by Nancy Wonson
(excerpted from the Cleveland PD 2/16/2015)

PARCC is the testing consortium Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Students across Ohio will be the first in the country to taking these new exams. Each student between third grade and eighth grade will take about 10 hours of tests spread over eight or nine days - or even more.

The tests make this the most anxious spring for students, schools and teachers. Teachers are concerned how the test scores will effect their evaluations. Schools are worried about scheduling computer time for the students and if their network will fail. Students are concerned about their scores on the tests can effect their teachers' job.

A growing number of parents are choosing to pull their kids out of testing. This has been referred to as "opting-out" of the testing. It is driven by parents who object to the ever increasing time spent on testing and the pressures students feel to do well.

For more detailed information on the PARCC testing and the opt-out movement, use the following links:

- <http://plaindealer.oh.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=162756337>
- <http://plaindealer.oh.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=0b0360aa6>

Retirement System Reports

Get the current OEA report on the three retirement systems at <http://www.ohea.org/retirement-systems-updates>.

NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee Seeks Members

The NEOEA-Retired Organizing Committee meets three times a year to provide programs to promote the welfare of retired members of NEOEA; identify concerns of retired members as topics for training workshops and social opportunities; serve as a link between retired members from NEOEA; and foster communication with other OEA-R members.

It is important that the committee include members from all areas of the NEOEA. Openings exist for members who live or worked in Ashtabula, Erie, Mahoning, or Portage County. A Committee Volunteer Form is available online at http://neoea.org/CommitteeVolunteerForm_and_Charges.pdf

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

NEOEA Day

NEOEA Day is Friday, October 16, 2015. As always, NEOEA seeks providers of quality programs for the upcoming NEOEA Day. The process of planning NEOEA Day begins this spring. If you or someone you know would be interested in presenting, please contact the NEOEA office at to receive an Request for Proposal (RFP) packet.

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>

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

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.

Update Your Contact Information

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>
- **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:** Order on the Best Benefits Club website (password: NEOEA0613e) 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



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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
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- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

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- **Park Place:** Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **Playhouse Square:** Tickets at a discounted rate with a flat \$7 handling fee. 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>

NEOEA Calendar

- 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.

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 on the new home page. A completely new website built on a WordPress platform will be unveiled in the Spring.

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