



NEOEA -- Retired

A publication of the North Eastern Ohio Education Association -- <http://www.neoea.org/> -- retired@neoea.org
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Volume 14, Number 1

October, 2013

Hank Haynes, Editor

NEOEA Day Friday, October 18, 2013

NEOEA Day is more than professional development workshops. Many sessions will be of interest to retirees. A guide to NEOEA programs is available at <http://neoea.org/NEOEAday/AtAGlance.html>; it contains links to the descriptions of all 39 NEOEA Day programs. The traditional catalog is available online at <http://www.neoea.org/ND2013.pdf>. If you want a paper copy, contact the NEOEA office at 216-518-0200 or desk@neoea.org.

Retired members are welcome at NEOEA Day events. Workshops include sessions on professional development, leadership development, and topics of personal interest, including the popular bus trips. Perhaps we'll see you on October 18!

OEA-R Delegates to be Elected

OEA-R members should look for their OEA-R Delegate Ballot in the mail this month. OEA-R members will elect twenty-six Delegates and fifteen Alternates to the OEA Representative Assembly.

Please mark and return your ballots promptly to be received in at OEA by October 25. Please support your candidates from NEOEA: Homer Adams, Lynn M. Aring, Debra Bernauer, Marshall Buckley, William A. Dorsey, Martha H. Franks, Gail Gentile, Hazel G. Haffner, Margaret (Peg) Ham, Robert (Hank) Haynes, Warren Douglas Hershberger, Norman W. Hillstrom, Richard Hollow, Donna Smoot Walters, Patricia Wagar, Nancy Wonson, John Veverka

Delegates attend both the Fall and Spring Representative Assemblies of OEA while delegates from NEOEA also attend both of the NEOEA RAs. The day before each OEA RA there is a delegate briefing with the OEA officers and discussion with members of the OEA-R Advisory Council.

OEA-R Statewide Fall Conference

The **OEA-Retired Statewide Fall Conference** was held Wednesday, September 11, 2013 at the STRS Building. Nine NEOEA-Retired members attended: Homer Adams, Lynn Aring, Beryl Burkle, Hazel Haffner, Peg Ham, Hank Haynes, Warren Hershberger, Adele Matias, and Pat Sharkey. Speakers included the OEA Officers: Becky Higgins, Scott DiMauro, and Tim Meyers; OEA Executive Director Larry Wicks; and OEA-R Staff Liaison Bill Otten.

Greg Nickell, STRS and Suzanne Martin, SERS reported that recent pension reform measures have resulted in a positive outlook for the pension systems and the health care programs. They described health

care changes for 2014 and how the Affordable Care Act would affect retiree health care. For complete information, please visit your retirement system website.

Kevin Flanagan, OEA Assistant Director for Field Services outlined the issues and OEA plans to fight the anticipated push by anti-labor forces for a "So-Called-Right-to-Work" law that would cripple unions as a voice for workers in Ohio. For detailed information and talking points visit the OEA page: <http://www.ohea.org/right-to-work>.

A now reoccurring feature of the OEA-Retired Fall Conference is hearing from OEA-R members describing interesting activities they are engaged in. This year's presenters were: Lee Schreiner, South-Western City School District Board of Education (Central) "Retired, Not Expired: Leading the Way in Your Community and the State Using Association Wisdom and Experience", and Christine McVicar (SEOEA) "Dragon Boating for Health and Wellness".

STRS and SERS Health Care Updates

STRS and SERS are bringing Health care information to you. Plan to attend an update near you. Visit your retirement system website for detailed information.

STRS - call or register on website, 10am & 1pm, some also at 5pm:
Akron - Oct 23, 24; Beachwood - Nov 6; Canton - Oct 21, 22;
Columbus - Oct 25, Nov 1, 19; Mentor - Nov 7; Strongsville Oct 28, 29; Westlake - Oct 30; Youngstown/Boardman - Nov 11, 12.

SERS - 9am & 1pm: Canton/Akron - Oct 23; Independence - Oct 8; Kirtland - Oct 11; Strongsville - Oct 7; Youngstown/Boardman - Oct 10; Webinars 10am: Sep 11, 27, Oct 4;

OEA-FCPE House District Committees

A new opportunity for continued involvement by OEA-Retired members was created last year. At the May 19, 2012 OEA-FCPE Delegate Convention the OEA-FCPE Constitution and Bylaws was amended to include a Retired and Student seat on each OEA-FCPE House District Committee.

The committees are newly organized during November/December of an odd numbered year and will begin training for the Ohio House District Candidate Screening process which will occur in the spring of 2014.

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".

Read Across America March 3-14, 2014

Begin planning now. Pick up your Read Across America Toolkit packet at the NEOEA office. NEOEA-Retired is building on the success of last year with a new volunteer sign-up and Read Across America resource page on the NEOEA-Retired website at <http://neoea-r.ohesa.us/read-across-america/>. The page includes links to the OEA and NEA Read Across America pages, each with valuable information about planning an event.

Retirees are invited to volunteer to read at schools and libraries near them. If you can help plan an event, NEOEA-R can get you the materials and information you need. Check the website or contact Beryl Burkle at 330-659-3928.

2014 NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference

Save the date: April 30, 2014 at the NEOEA Conference Center. It's not too early to mark your calendar for the third **NEOEA-Retired Spring Conference**. All NEOEA-R and ORTA members in northeastern Ohio are invited.

Registration & Continental Breakfast at 9:30; two Breakout Sessions; Lunch; and done by 1:00. Choose from (A). Legislative update, (B). STRS update, (C). Member Benefits update, (D). A special interest workshop.

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. Check NEOEA-R website Calendar for registration form.

NEA-Retired Organizing Conference

Save the dates: Tuesday, March 25 — Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Westin Galleria Hotel, Houston, TX.

OEA-Retired Membership Special

News Flash from the OEA-R Membership Committee — Retirees that sign-up for a unified OEA-R and NEA-R membership will receive an OEA-R flash drive and pen with \$25 gas cards going to the first 50 new members. If you know Active members nearing retirement they can Pre-Retire and receive the same gifts.

Sign-up on line with a credit card at <https://ims.nea.org/JoinNea/> to join both OEA-R and NEA-R. Lifetime membership is a one-time \$350 and can easily save you that much every year in insurance and appliance discounts. Visit the Membership page on the NEOEA-R website for more information.

NEOEA-Retired Committees

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

The **Outreach** Committee can always use new volunteers. It has been active with the OEA/NEA Read Across America program reading to children at schools and libraries and with the OEA-Retired Intergenerational Mentoring Program pairing retired members with OSEA education students at local colleges. Contact Us and volunteer.

The **Conference** Committee has done a great job with the NEOEA-R Spring Conference and workshops at the NEOEA MegaConference and the NEOEA Summer Leadership Conference. The committee is always looking for ideas for topics that will inform members.

The **Political Action** Committee will be gearing up for candidate screenings and campaign work for the 2014 election. House District committees will form late this fall and begin training. An amendment to the OEA-FCPE C&B now provides a Retired seat on each House District Committee. Retirees

must live in the House District they apply for or in an adjacent HD and be an OEA-FCPE contributor and OEA-R member. If you wish to volunteer, use our Contact Us page.

The **Retirement Issues** Committee attends STRS, SERS, & PERS Retirement Board meetings and monitors their actions. Use Contact Us if you want to car-pool to a meeting.

The **Membership** Committee promotes OEA-R/NEA-R membership. Volunteers are needed to contact/visit local associations in their area and offer to explain the Pre-Retired program to active members. The committee works to establish contact with local Retiree groups throughout NEOEA. Use Contact Us to volunteer.

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.

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans

The **Alliance for Retired Americans** was founded in May 2001 to ensure social and economic justice and full civil rights for all citizens so that they may enjoy lives of dignity, personal and family fulfillment and security. The primary objective is to enroll and mobilize retired union members and other seniors and community activists into a nationwide grassroots movement advocating a progressive political and social agenda that respects work and strengthens families.

OEA-Retired has recently partnered with the Ohio chapter of the Alliance and sends representative to its meetings. If you would like more information visit the webpage at <http://retiredamericans.org/>, Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OhioARA>, or Twitter at <https://twitter.com/OHRetired>.

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.ohesa.us/contact-us/>. Don't have internet access? Just call the NEOEA Office at 216-518-0200.

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.

Calling All Local Retired Groups

Are you involved with a group of retirees from your Local Association? Do you get together for meetings, luncheons, or other events? NEOEA-R can help you involve members, strengthen your group, and keep members informed. NEOEA-R can provide your group with informative speakers or handouts on many subjects.

Two great member involvement programs are Read Across America and Intergenerational Mentoring. NEOEA-R can help you work with your Local Association to bring retired members in to help with Read Across America activities. The Intergenerational Mentoring program pairs retired members with education students at local colleges.

The purpose of the NEOEA-R Organizing Committee is "to promote 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-R".

NEOEA Day 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.

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. <http://www.bbcmember.com/>. Our password is NEOEA0613 or call 330-273-5756.
- **Cleveland Browns**: Come join us for NEOEA Day at the stadium on Sunday, October 13, to see the Detroit Lions play our Cleveland Browns at FirstEnergy Stadium! The Browns have provided special ticket offers for NEOEA members, family, and friends with up to \$20 off per ticket. Go Browns! <http://www.neoea.org/Browns2013.pdf>
- **Cleveland Indians**: 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.
- **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 <http://www.honeybaked.com/>.
- **Liberty Mutual**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.libertymutual.com/neoea>

- **Dollar Bank**: Special Rates for NEOEA Members. <http://www.dollarbank.com/neoea/>
- **Park Place**: Discount airport parking. <http://www.neoea.org/ParkPlace.pdf>
- **PlayhouseSquare**: Use the promotional code FAMTIX. <http://ev15.evenue.net/cgi-bin/incommerce3/EVExecMacro?linkID=psq&evm=prmo&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR&promoType=corp>



OEA-FCPE Fundraising

As the saying goes, the most import election is the next election! The 2014 elections will be critical for educators and public education.

The time is now to contribute early and often to the **OEA-Fund for Children and Public Education**. OEA-FCPE funds are used to support candidates recommended by the various Statewide, Senate District and House District OEA-FCPE Screening Committees. Just go to the OEA website at www.OHEA.org and click on "Donate to FCPE".



Be an OEA-ACE: Advocate for Children and Education

Get ready to do your part in fighting off bad public policy and supporting issues that help public education.

Just go to the OEA website at www.OHEA.org, click on POLITICAL ACTION, click on "Advocates For Children And Education - ACE", click on "Sign Up Now". Enter your name, address, and email, and "Submit."





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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
- 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
- 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 Waggar, Mayfield EA-R
- Karen Wood, Stow Munroe Falls CEA-R

Address Service Requested

NEOEA Calendar

- Oct 17-20** NEOEA New York City Tour and Broadway Show, NY
- Oct 18-20** NEOEA -Hatfield and McCoy Feud Tour, WV
- Oct 18** NEOEA Day Workshops, various locations
- Oct 25** OEA-R Delegate Ballots due to OEA
- Oct 26** NEOEA Envir Concerns Fall Color Hike, TBD
- Nov 5** Election Day - Support your Local School District Levy and Pro-Education Candidates
- Nov 16** NEOEA Representative Assembly, Mentor HS
- Dec 6** OEA-Retired Delegate Caucus, STRS, Columbus
- Dec 7** OEA Representative Assembly, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Columbus
- Jan 25** NEOEA Envir Concerns Cross Country Ski, Lake MetroParks
- Feb 4** NEOEA-Retired Organizing Com, NEOEA Office

- Feb 15** NEA-R Delegate & OEA-R Advisory Council Candidacy Forms due
- Feb 22** NEOEA MegaConference, TBD

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

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

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

On the **OEA** website:

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

2013 General Election November 5.

Although an off-year election doesn't have the excitement of statewide and federal elections, Ohio's voters will be asked to decide the fate of local school levies, school board candidates, and communities issues.

Remember that education policy and direction are made by elected officials or those they appoint.

Make sure you are registered to vote.

- Early voting begins October 1st.
- Registration ends on October 7th.

Update your address or check your status on the Ohio Secretary of State website at <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/elections/Voters.aspx>. The site has links to your county Board of Elections for more information on local issues and candidates.

